



Austro-Hungarian
Orders, Medals and Decorations
Volume I: Orders
Part IV



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Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Date Issued: This order was created on December 2, 1849, the first anniversary of Franz Joseph's coronation as Emperor of Austria and continued to be issued until April 3, 1919.

Reason Issued: The original intent of the order was that it be conferred on Austrian citizens without consideration for their origin, religion and status for merit in support of the emperor and homeland, and for distinguished conduct both in war and in peace. The meritorious acts were to be in support of the wellbeing of all Austrians. Distinguished merit in invention and discoveries in the fields of agriculture, domestic industry and in trade were to be rewarded by receipt of this order. It could also be used as a reward for outstanding scientific and artistic activity as well as devoted work in relief of the suffering among mankind. Foreigners were eligible to receive this order for extraordinary merit in support of Austria or for other deserving and outstanding "activities". Ultimately this order was issued to honor special civil or military merit. It was often awarded to diplomats. The grade of the order received, was frequently determined by the social or military status of the recipient.

Classes or Types: This order was originally issued in three classes: Grand Cross with Star, Commander and Knight. The three classes of this order were expanded to four on February 18, 1869 when the Commander with Star class was added to the range of awards. On February 1, 1901 a fifth class: an Officer's badge was added to the order. Thus the award was ultimately issued in five classes: Grand Cross on grand cordon with star, Commander with star, Commander, Officer and Knight. The award also came in two divisions: military and civil and within the military division were two grades: with war decoration and with war decoration and swords.

The classes and grades of the Franz Joseph Order from December 2, 1849 to October 18, 1869 were:

- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Grand cross
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Knight

The classes and grades of the Franz Joseph Order from October 18, 1869 to February 1, 1901 were:

- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Grand cross
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander with Star (Created in October 18, 1869 but only became official from 1901-April 3, 1919)
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Knight





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Image form Pinterest

The classes and grades of the Franz Joseph Order from February 1, 1901 to September 14, 1914 were:

- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Grand cross
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander with Star (created in October 18, 1869 but only became official in 1901-April 3, 1919):
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Officer
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Knight

The classes and grades of the Franz Joseph Order from September 14, 1914 to December 13, 1916 were:

- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Grand cross
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander with Star
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Officer
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Knight with war decoration
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Knight

The classes and grades of the Franz Joseph Order from December 1914 to December 13, 1916 were:

- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Grand cross
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander with Star with war decoration
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander with Star
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander with war decoration
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Officer with war decoration
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Officer
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Knight with war decoration
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Knight

Note: Awards of the grand cross with war decoration were not issued until August 13, 1916 as no guidance had been provided by the court on how to designate the war decoration. Awards issued from August 13, 1916 until August 1, 1917 were issued on the red ribbon with a star with a war decoration. After August 1, 1917 the badge of the grand cross with war decoration was worn on the war ribbon and the star was embellished with a wreath.





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

The classes and grades of the Franz Joseph Order from December 13, 1916 -April 3, 1919 were:

- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, grand cross with war decoration and swords
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, grand cross with war decoration, and swords of a lower class
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, grand cross with war decoration
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, grand cross with war decoration of a lower class and, swords of a lower class
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, grand cross with war decoration of a lower class
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, grand cross
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander with Star with war decoration and swords
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander with Star with war decoration and swords of a lower class
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander with Star with war decoration
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander with Star with war decoration of a lower class and swords of a lower class
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander with Star with war decoration of a lower class
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander with Star
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander with war decoration and swords
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander with war decoration and swords of a lower class
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander with war decoration
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander with war decoration of a lower class and, swords of a lower class
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander with war decoration of a lower class
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Officer with war decoration and swords
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Officer with war decoration and swords of a lower class
 - Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Officer with war decoration
 - Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Officer with war decoration of a lower class and, swords of a lower class





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Image attributed to Reference Catalogue Orders, medals and decorations of the World, A-D, Borna Barac

The classes and grades of the Franz Joseph Order from December 13, 1916 -April 3, 1919 (Continued):

- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Officer with war decoration of a lower class
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Officer
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Knight with war decoration and swords
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Knight with war decoration
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Knight

During World War I this order was available in Five Classes which comprised 28 variations with and without war decoration and with and without swords. Swords were authorized on December 13, 1917.

Note: On February 17, 1918 a second award of the Commander, Officer and Knight badge with war decoration and swords was authorized. No awards are known to have been issued.

Insignia components during WWI

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, grand cross

- Grand Cross with war decoration and swords (December 13, 1916 -April 3, 1919): Grand cross badge with war decoration (War Ribbon Grand Cordon) and **gold** crossed swords on the imperial crown banderols, which attach the crown of the insignia to the badge. The badge is accompanied by a star with war decoration (gilt laurel wreath passing below the tips of the star) and swords (crossed **gold** swords on the banderols of the order badge on the obverse of the star)
- Grand Cross with war decoration, and swords of a lower class (December 13, 1916 -1918): Grand cross badge with war decoration (War Ribbon Grand Cordon) and **silver** crossed swords on the insignia imperial crown banderols, which attach the crown to the badge. The badge is accompanied by a star with war decoration (gilt laurel wreath passing below the tips of the star) and swords of a lower class (crossed **silver** swords on the banderols of the order badge on the obverse of the star)
- Grand Cross with war decoration (September 14, 1914-August 1, 1917): Grand cross badge with war decoration (Red Grand Cordon). The badge is accompanied by a star with war decoration (gilt laurel wreath passing below the tips of the star)
- Grand Cross with war decoration (August 1, 1917-1918): Grand cross badge with war decoration (War ribbon Grand Cordon). The badge is accompanied by a star with war decoration (gilt laurel wreath passing below the tips of the star)





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Grand Cross of the Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order (continued)

- Grand Cross with war decoration of a lower class and swords of a lower class (December 13, 1916, April 3, 1919): Grand cross badge on a red grand cordon with war decoration of a lower class (a green enameled wreath tightly raped around the center medallion of the badge) and **silver** crossed swords on the insignia imperial crown banderols. The badge is accompanied by a star with war decoration of a lower class (a green enameled wreath tightly raped around the center medallion of the badge) and swords of a lower class (crossed **silver** swords on the banderoles of the order badge on the obverse of the star)
- Grand Cross with war decoration of a lower class (August 13, 1916-April 3, 1919): Grand cross badge on a red grand cordon with war decoration of a lower class (a green enameled wreath tightly raped around the center medallion of the badge). The badge is accompanied by a star with war decoration of a lower class (a green enameled wreath tightly raped around the center medallion of the badge)
- Grand Cross (1849-April 3, 1919): Grand Cross Badge on the civil (red) grand cordon accompanied by a Star

Commander with Star of the Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

- Commander with Star, with war decoration and swords (December 13, 1916 -April 3, 1919): Commander with star badge with war decoration (War ribbon cravat) and crossed **gold** swords on the insignia imperial crown banderols. The badge is accompanied by a star with war decoration (gilt laurel wreath passing below the tips of the star) and swords (crossed **gold** swords on the banderoles of the order badge on the obverse of the star)





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Commander with Star of the Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order (continued)

- Commander with Star with war decoration and swords of a lower class (December 13, 1916-April 3, 1919): Commander with Star badge with war decoration (war ribbon cravat) and silver crossed swords on the insignia imperial crown banderols. The badge is accompanied by a star with war decoration (gilt laurel wreath passing below the tips of the star) and swords (Crossed **silver** swords on the banderoles of the order badge on the obverse of the star)
- Commander with Star with war decoration (September 14, 1914-April 3, 1919): Commander with Star badge with war decoration (war ribbon cravat). The badge is accompanied by a star with war decoration (gilt laurel wreath passing below the tips of the star)
- Commander with Star with war decoration of a lower class and swords of a lower class (December 13, 1916-April 3, 1919): Commander with Star badge on a red cravat with war decoration of a lower class (a green enameled wreath tightly raped around the center medallion of the badge) and **silver** crossed swords on the Insignia imperial crown banderols. The badge is accompanied by a star with war decoration of a lower class (a green enameled wreath tightly raped around the center medallion of the badge) and swords of a lower class (crossed **silver** swords on the banderoles of the order badge on the obverse of the star)
- Commander with Star with war decoration of a lower class (August 13, 1916-April 3, 1919): Commander with Star badge on a red cravat with war decoration of a lower class (a green enameled wreath tightly raped around the center medallion of the badge). The badge is accompanied by a star with war decoration of a lower class (a green enameled wreath tightly raped around the center medallion of the badge)
- Commander with Star (created in October 18, 1869 but only became official in 1901-April 3, 1919): Commander with Star badge on a red cravat accompanied by a star





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Commander of the Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

Note: Insignia in bold although authorized were never issued.

- **Commander with war decoration and swords and second award wreath (February 17, 1918):** A Commander badge on the war ribbon. Attached to the suspension ring is a 12 mm green enameled wreath (denoting a second award of the Commander Order)
- Commander with war decoration and swords (December 13, 1916 -April 3, 1919): Commander Badge with war decoration (war ribbon cravat) and **gold** crossed swords on the insignia imperial crown banderols.
- Commander with war decoration and swords of a lower class (December 13, 1916 -April 3, 1919): Commander Badge with war decoration (war ribbon cravat) and **silver** crossed swords on the insignia imperial crown banderols.
- Commander with war decoration (September 14, 1914-April 3, 1919): Commander Badge with war decoration (war ribbon cravat)
- Commander with war decoration of a lower class and swords of a lower class (December 13, 1916 -April 3, 1919): Commander badge on a red cravat with war decoration of a lower class (a green enameled wreath tightly raped around the center medallion of the badge) and **silver** crossed swords on the Insignia imperial crown banderols.
- Commander with war decoration of a lower class (August 13, 1916-April 3, 1919): Commander Badge on a red cravat with war decoration of a lower class (a green enameled wreath tightly raped around the center medallion of the badge)
- Commander (1849-April 3, 1919): Commander Badge on a red cravat





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Officer of the Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

- Officer Insignia with war decoration and swords ((December 13, 1916 -April 3, 1919): Officer Badge with war decoration (green enameled banderols) and with **gold** crossed swords on the banderols of the crown
-]Officer Insignia with war decoration and swords of a lower class (December 13, 1916 -April 3, 1919): Officer badge with war decoration (green enameled banderols) and with **silver** crossed swords on the banderols of the crown
- Officer Insignia with war decoration (September 14, 1914-April 3, 1919): Officer Badge with war decoration (green enameled banderols)
- Officer Insignia with war decoration of a lower class and swords of a lower class (December 13, 1916 -1918): Officer Insignia with war decoration of a lower class (a green enameled wreath tightly rapped around the center medallion of the badge) and **silver** crossed swords on the banderols of the crown
- Officer Insignia with war decoration of a lower class (August 13, 1916-April 3, 1919): Officer Badge with war decoration of a lower class (a green enameled wreath tightly rapped around the center medallion of the badge)
- Officer Insignia (1901-April 3, 1919): Officer Badge

Knight of the Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

- Knight with war decoration and swords (December 13, 1916 -April 3, 1919): Knight badge with war decoration (Tri-fold war ribbon) and with gold crossed swords on the ribbon
- Knight with war decoration (September 14, 1914-April 3, 1919): Knight badge with war decoration (Tri-fold war ribbon)
- Knight (1849-1918): Knight badge on red tri-fold ribbon





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Interesting Facts:

- This was the last general merit order created for the Austro-Hungarian Empire
- The monarch was the Grand Master of the order.
- Persons receiving the order could be exempted from paying taxes.
- These badges were patterned after the Gold Merit Cross. Both were based on the design of the Salzburg St. Rupert type cross.
- This is the only Austrian order, which had kette. These are small chains that could be worn on civil dress to represent the award of the badge. This is probably because this order was often given to diplomats and these Ketta would have been attractive when worn on civilian clothes.
- This order could be awarded with jewels by the Order Grand Master.
- This order was granted more prolifically than any of the other Austrian orders
- Gregor Mendel was awarded the commander grade of this order
- Roald Amundson the polar explorer received the Grand Cross of the order
- The order was to be returned upon the death of the recipient. In addition the recipient was obligated to return the order insignia if he received a higher class of the order. If he had received a class with the war decoration, he returned the same class without war decoration.
- On September 14, and on December 31, 1914 it was authorized that noncombatants, and officers of the legal service, army surgeons, veterinary surgeons and other military officials (accounting officials, commissary officials and ordinance officials) could receive for merit in wartime the knights cross, the commander cross and the commander cross with star of the Franz Joseph Order on the ribbon of the military merit medal (the war ribbon)
- Insignia were made of gold until 1916
- The last award of this order occurred in May of 1919 to Lansturm Oberleutnant Dr. Richard Edler von Mises (Knight cross with war decoration) and to Generalmajor Emil Freiherrn von Testaj (Commander with war decoration).
- Members who possessed the Grand Cross were admitted to the Privy Council Chamber at all times while those possessing the officer or knights badge were admitted on the occasion of order festivals
- There were only seven Austro-Hungarian awards authorized by statute to be issued in jeweled a jeweled version: The Order of the Golden Fleece, The Military Order of Maria Theresia, The Order of St. Stephan, the Order of Leopold, The Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown, (although the statutes of this order authorize the wearing of jeweled insignia with the permission of the emperor there are no known authorized examples of this insignia) and the Military Merit Cross. In each case they were issued to indicate the special regard of the emperor.





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Image form Pinterest

Interesting Facts (continued):

- The obverse center medallion is hinged on the gold badges
- The order could be awarded to foreigners by the emperor
- Engraved versions of this order exist. These were privately engraved by the recipient or by those who wanted to honor the recipient by personalizing the insignia
- Although not provided for in the statutes the emperor awarded a knights badge to a women: Maria Gintowt Edle von Dziewialtowska, the headmistress of the Officers Daughters School in Sopron.
- The order motto was the personal motto of Emperor, Franz Joseph: VIRIBUS UNITIS (with United strength)
- The Emperor was always the grand master of the order
- The order knights could decorate their coat of arms with the order insignia
- The Order officials were the Chancellor, the Order Treasurer, the Order Secretary an Archivist, and an Order Clerk
- The star that was added to the commander insignia in 1869 had no official status at that time. It was created as a special award for foreigners who would be honored on the occasion of the Emperors trip to the orient.





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Hallmarks:

- 1872-1922 small article 750 gold hallmark
- The base metal star
- The Vienna mark
- The mark of Vincent Mayers and sons
- The mark of Gebrüder Resch
- The mark of Wilhelm Kunz
- The mark of Rozet & Fischmeister
- The mark of Hans Ulbrecht Witwe
- The Mark of Anthal Bachruch of Budapest
- The mark of Alexander Kittner
- The mark of C.F. Rothe

Design: A gold, red enameled, clawed cross with flared and rounded ends. Displayed between the arms of the cross is a black enameled imperial eagle. The eagle holds in its beak a chain with the motto of the emperor's reign which is also the order motto **VIRBUS UNITIS**. In the center of the cross is a round white enameled medallion with the gold raised letters **FJ** (Franz Joseph) upon it and a gold rim. The badge is suspended from a gold imperial crown with banderols which attach the crown the cross.

Obverse:

- **Grand Cross (December 2, 1849-1918), Commander with Star (October 18, 1869-1918), Commander (December 2, 1849-1918) and Knight (December 2, 1849-1918)** : A gold, red enameled clawed cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). Between the arms is a black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). The cross is suspended from a hinged gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. At the top of the badge is an orb with a cross through which passes the ring for suspending the badge from a red ribbon. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles which attach it to the cross. The grand cross and commander cross were 70 by 38 mm in size and the knight cross 57 by 32 mm in size.





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Obverse:

- **Grand Cross, Commander with Star and Commander Badge with war decoration of a lower class (August 13, 1916-1918):** A gold, red enameled 70 x 38 mm clawed cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the gold raised monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). The war decoration of a lower class is in the form of a green enameled wreath tightly raped around the center medallion of the badge. Between the arms is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). The cross is suspended from a hinged gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. At the top of the badge is an orb with a cross through which passes the ring for suspending the badge from a red ribbon. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles which attach the crown to the cross.
- **Grand Cross, Commander with Star and Commander Badge with war decoration of a lower class and swords of a lower class, December 13, 1916 -1918:** A gold, red enameled 70 x 38 mm clawed cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion on which is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). The war decoration of a lower class is in the form of a green enameled wreath tightly raped around the center medallion of the badge. Between the arms is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). The cross is suspended from a hinged gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. Attached to the banderoles of the crown are crossed **silver** swords. At the top of the badge is an orb with a cross through which passes the ring for suspending the badge from a red ribbon. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles which attach the crown to the cross.





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)

Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Obverse:

- **Grand Cross, Commander with Star, Commander and Knight, with war decoration (September 14, 1914-1918):** A gold, red enameled, clawed cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the gold raised monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). Between the arms is a black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). The cross is suspended from a hinged gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. At the top of the badge is an orb with a cross through which passes the ring for suspending the badge from a **red and white ladder war ribbon**. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles which attach the crown to the cross. **(The war decoration is designated by the badge being worn on the war ribbon)**. The grand cross and commander cross were 70 x 38 mm in size and the knight cross 57x32 mm in size.
- **Grand Cross, Commander with Star and Commander Badge with war decoration, and swords of a lower class December 13, 1916 -1918:** A gold, red enameled 70 x 38 mm clawed cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion on which is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). Between the arms is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). The cross is suspended from a hinged gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. Attached to the banderols of the crown are crossed **silver** swords. At the top of the badge is an orb with a cross through which passes the ring for suspending the badge from a **red and white ladder war ribbon**. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles which attach the crown to the Cross. **(The war decoration is designated by the badge being worn on the war ribbon)**.





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Obverse:

- **Grand Cross, Commander with Star and Commander Badge with war decoration and swords December 13, 1916 -1918:** A gold, red enameled 70 x 38 mm clawed cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion on which is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). Between the arms is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). The cross is suspended from a hinged gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. Attached to the banderols of the crown are crossed **gold** swords. At the top of the badge is an orb with a cross through which passes the ring for suspending the badge from a **red and white laddered war ribbon**. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles which attach the crown to the cross. (**The war decoration is designated by the badge being worn on the war ribbon**).
- **Officer Cross (February 1, 1901-1918):** A gold, red enameled pin back clawed Latin cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). Between the arms is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasping golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). Above the cross is a gold imperial crown within which is often found a red enameled liner. At the top of the crown is an orb with a cross. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles which attach the crown to the cross.





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)

Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Obverse:

- **Officer Cross with war decoration of a lower class (August 13, 1916-1918):** A gold, red enameled pin back clawed Latin cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). The war decoration of a lower class is in the form of a green enameled wreath tightly rapped around the center medallion of the badge. Between the arms of the cross is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). Above the cross is a gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. At the top of the crown is an orb with a cross. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles which attach the crown to the cross.
- **Officer Cross with war decoration of a lower class and swords of a lower class (December 13, 1916 - 1918):** A gold, red enameled pin back clawed Latin cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). The war decoration of a lower class is in the form of a green enameled wreath tightly rapped around the center medallion of the badge. Between the arms of the cross is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). Above the cross is a gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. At the top of the crown is an orb with a cross. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles on which are placed crossed **silver** swords. The banderoles attach the crown to the cross





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Obverse:

- **Officer Cross with war decoration (September 14, 1914-1918):** A gold, red enameled pin back clawed Latin cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). Between the arms of the cross is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). Above the cross is a gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. At the top of the crown is an orb with a cross. Below the crown are crossed green enameled (**war decoration**) banderoles. The banderoles connect the crown to the cross.
- **Officer Cross with war decoration and swords of a lower class December 13, 1916 -1918:** A gold, red enameled pin back clawed Latin cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). Between the arms is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). Above the cross is a gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. At the top of the crown is an orb with a cross. Below the crown are crossed green enameled (**war decoration**) banderoles on which are crossed **silver** swords. The banderoles connect the crown to the cross.





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Obverse:

- **Officer Cross with war decoration and swords December 13, 1916 -1918:** A gold, red enameled pin back clawed Latin cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). Between the arms is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). Above the cross is a gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. At the top of the crown is an orb with a cross. Below the crown are crossed green enameled (**war decoration**) banderoles on which are crossed **gold** swords. The banderoles connect the crown to the cross.





Orders of Knighthood

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Early Star

Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Later star

Image from Pinterest

Obverse:

- **Grand Cross star, December 2, 1849-1872:** A 82 mm in diameter eight pointed diamond cut silver metal star with a 60 by 38 mm red and white enameled center medallion. The center medallion is the obverse portion of the Franz Joseph Grand Cross badge.
- **Grand Cross star, 1872-1900:** A 92-95 mm in diameter eight pointed diamond cut silver metal star with a 65 by 37 mm red and white enameled center medallion. The center medallion is the obverse portion of the Franz Joseph Grand Cross badge
- **Grand Cross star, After 1900:** A 92 mm in diameter eight pointed diamond cut silver metal star with a 65 by 37 mm red and white enameled center medallion. The center medallion is the obverse portion of the Franz Joseph Grand Cross badge
- **Commander with Star, star, February 18, 1869-1918:** A 80 mm in diameter eight pointed diamond cut silver metal star with a 57 by 32 mm red and white enameled center medallion. The center medallion is the obverse portion of the Franz Joseph Grand Cross badge.





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Obverse:

- **Grand Cross star with war decoration of a lower class, August 13, 1916-1918:** A 90 mm in diameter eight pointed diamond cut silver metal star with a 65 by 38 mm red and white enameled center medallion. The center medallion is the obverse portion of the Franz Joseph Grand Cross badge with a green enameled wreath wrapped tightly around the center medallion of the superimposed badge.
- **Commander with Star, star with war decoration of a lower class, August 13, 1916-1918:** A 80 mm in diameter eight pointed diamond cut silver metal star with a 57 by 32 mm red and white enameled center medallion. The center medallion is the obverse portion of the Franz Joseph Commander badge with a green enameled wreath wrapped tightly around the center medallion of the superimposed badge.
- **Grand Cross star with war decoration of a lower class and swords of a lower class, December 13, 1916-1918:** A 90 mm in diameter eight pointed diamond cut silver metal star with a 65 by 38mm red and white enameled center medallion. The center medallion is the obverse portion of the Franz Joseph Grand Cross badge with a green enameled wreath wrapped tightly around the center medallion. On the banderols of the crown at the top of the badge are crossed **silver** swords.
- **Commander with Star, star with war decoration of a lower class and swords of a lower class, December 13, 1916-1918:** A 80 mm in diameter eight pointed diamond cut silver metal star with a 57 by 32 mm red and white enameled center medallion. The center medallion is the obverse portion of the Franz Joseph Commander badge with a green enameled wreath wrapped tightly around the center medallion. On the banderols of the crown at the top of the badge are crossed **silver** swords.





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Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Obverse:

- **Grand Cross star with war decoration August 13, 1916-1918:** A 90 mm in diameter eight pointed diamond cut silver metal star with a 65 by 38mm red and white enameled center medallion. The center medallion is the obverse portion of the Franz Joseph Grand Cross badge. Below the tips of the star passes a gold gilt laurel wreath.
- **Commander with Star, star with war decoration August 13, 1916-1918:** A 80 mm in diameter eight pointed diamond cut silver metal star with a 57 by 32 mm red and white enameled center medallion. The center medallion is the obverse portion of the Franz Joseph Commander badge. Below the tips of the star passes a gold gilt laurel wreath.
- **Grand Cross star with war decoration and swords, December 13, 1916 -1918:** A 90 mm in diameter eight pointed diamond cut silver metal star with a 65 by 38 mm red and white enameled center medallion. The center medallion is the obverse portion of the Franz Joseph Grand Cross badge. Below the tips of the star passes a gold gilt laurel wreath. On the banderols of the crown at the top of the badge are crossed **gold** swords.
- **Commander with Star, star with war decoration and swords, December 13, 1916 -1918:** A 80 mm in diameter eight pointed diamond cut silver metal star with a 57 by 32 mm red and white enameled center medallion. The center medallion is the obverse portion of the Franz Joseph Commander badge. Below the tips of the star passes a gold gilt laurel wreath. On the banderols of the crown at the top of the badge are crossed **gold** swords.





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Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Reverse:

- **Grand Cross (December 2, 1849-1918), Commander with Star (1869-1918), Commander and Knight (1849-1918):** A gold, red enameled clawed cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the raised date **1849** in gold. Between the arms is a black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. The cross is suspended from a hinged gold imperial crown within which is may be a red enameled liner. At the top of the cross is an orb through which passes the ring for suspending the cross from the ribbon. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles which connect the crown to the cross. The grand cross and commander cross were 70 x 38 mm in size and the knight cross 57 by 32 mm in size.
- **Grand Cross, Commander with Star and Commander with swords (December 13, 1916 -1918):** A gold, red enameled clawed cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the raised date **1849** in gold. Between the arms is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. The cross is suspended from a hinged gold imperial crown within which is a red enameled liner. At the top of the cross is an orb through which passes the ring for suspending the cross from the ribbon. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles attached to which are **gold or silver** swords. The Banderols connect the crown to the cross. The grand cross and commander cross were 70 by 38 mm in size.
- **Knight (December 2, 1849-1918):** Presentation piece engraved on the plain reverse.





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Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Reverse:

- **Officer Badge (February 1, 1901-1918):** a plain gold clawed Latin cross with flared and rounded edges. In the center of the cross is a round gold medallion on which is the maker's logo and name. Between the arms is a gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. The cross is suspended from a gold imperial crown. At the top of the cross is an orb with a cross on top. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles which connect the crown to the cross.
- **Officer Badge with war decoration (June 2, 1915-1918):** a plain gold clawed Latin cross with flared and rounded edges. In the center of the cross is a round gold medallion on which is the maker's logo and name. Between the arms is a gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. The cross is suspended from a gold imperial crown. At the top of the cross is an orb with a cross on top. Below the crown are crossed extended gold banderoles which on the obverse are enameled green. The Banderols connect the crown to the cross.
- **Officer Badge with war decoration (December 14, 1914-June 2, 1915):** a plain gold clawed Latin cross with flared and rounded edges. In the center of the cross is a round gold medallion on which is the maker's logo and name. Between the arms is a gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. The cross is suspended from a gold imperial crown. At the top of the cross is an orb with a cross on top. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles. The Banderols connect the crown to the cross. Behind the badge is a rosette composed from the war ribbon. This rosette indicates the receipt of the war decoration.
- **Officer Badge (February 1, 1901-1918)** A presentation piece with an engraved reverse.





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Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Reverse:

- **Officer Badge with war decoration and swords of a lower class December 13, 1916 -1918:** a plain gold clawed Latin cross with flared and rounded edges. In the center of the cross is a round gold medallion on which is the maker's logo and name. Between the arms is a gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. The cross is suspended from a gold imperial crown. At the top of the cross is an orb with a cross on top. Below the crown are crossed extended gold banderoles which on the obverse are enameled green. On the banderoles are crossed **silver** swords. The Banderols connect the crown to the cross.
- **Officer Badge with war decoration and swords, December 13, 1916 -1918:** a plain gold clawed Latin cross with flared and rounded edges. In the center of the cross is a round gold medallion on which is the maker's logo and name. Between the arms is a gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. The cross is suspended from a gold imperial crown. At the top of the cross is an orb with a cross on top. Below the crown are crossed extended gold banderoles which on the obverse are enameled green. On the banderoles are crossed **gold** swords. The Banderols connect the crown to the cross.





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Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Image form Pinterest

Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Reverse:

- **Grand Cross star December 2, 1849-1918, Commander with Star, star (October 18, 1869-1918):** A plain silver pierced reverse with a round center medallion that often has the manufacturers logo and with a vertical pin for attaching the star to the uniform. The commander star also often has a C on the reverse while the Grand Cross star also often has a G on the reverse
- **Grand Cross and Commander with star with war decoration September (August 13, 1916 -1918 and Grand Cross and Commander with star with war decoration and swords (December 13, 1916 -1918):** A plain silver pierced reverse with a round center medallion that often has the manufacturers logo and with a vertical pin for attaching the star to the uniform. Attached by rivets to the arms of the star is a gilt engraved wreath. The commander star also often has a C on the reverse while the Grand Cross star also often has a G on the reverse





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Weight: Since the weight of orders can vary considerably depending on the materials of which it is made those listed below are typical ranges.

- Grand Cross badge in diamonds: Unknown
- Grand Cross badge 1849-1918: 25-67 grams
- Grand Cross badge with war decoration (September 14, 1914-1918): 23.8 grams
- Grand Cross badge with war decoration and swords (December 13, 1916 -1918): Unknown
- Grand Cross star (1849-1872): 66 grams
- Grand Cross star (1872-1918): 84.2 grams
- Commander with star badge (1869-1918): 25 grams
- Commander with Star, Star (1869 -1872): 54 grams
- Commander with Star, Star with war decoration (September 14, 1914-1918): 67 grams
- Commander with Star badge with war decoration: Unknown
- Commander with Star badge with war decoration and swords (December 13, 1916-1918): 27.3 grams
- Commander badge 1849-1918 (1850): 24 grams
- Commander badge with war decoration: 21 grams
- Commander badge with war decoration of a lower class: 21.4 grams
- Commander badge with war decoration and swords, (December 13, 1916 -1918): 26 grams
- Officer badge: 22 grams
- Officer badge with war decoration of a lower class: 31 grams
- Officer badge with war decoration: 24-32 grams
- Officer badge with war decoration and swords, (December 13, 1916 -1918): 31 grams
- Knight badge: 24 grams





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Size: Since the size of orders can vary depending on the manufacturer those listed below are typical ranges.

- Grand Cross badge in diamonds: Unknown
- The Grand Cross badge (1849-1917): 66-70 mm high and 37-38 mm in width
- Grand Cross Star (1849 -1872): 76-82 mm in diameter with a badge in center that is 60 by 38 mm in size.
- Grand Cross Star (1873-1900): 92-95 mm in diameter with a badge in its center that is 65 by 38 mm
- Grand Cross Star (1900-1918): 92 mm in diameter with a badge in its center that is 65 by 38 mm
- Grand Cross badge with war decoration September 14, 1914-1918: 69-70 mm in height and 37-38 mm wide
- Grand Cross badge with war decoration and swords December 13, 1916 -1918: 70 mm in height and 38 mm wide
- Commander with star badge (1869-1916): 70 mm high and 38 mm in width
- Commander with star badge with war decoration and swords (1916-1918): 76 mm high and 38 mm in width
- Commander with Star, Star (1869 -1872): 70 mm in diameter with a 50 X 30 mm badge in its center.
- Commander with Star, Star (1872-1918): 80 mm in diameter with a 50-57 X 30-32 mm badge in its center.
- Commander with Star, Star (circa 1900): 80 mm in diameter with a 50-57 X 30-32 mm badge in its center.
- Commander with Star badge with war decoration (September 14, 1914-1918): 70 mm high and 38 mm in width.
- Commander with Star badge with war decoration and swords (December 13, 1916 -1918): 70 mm in height and 38 mm wide
- Commander badge (1849-1918): 70 mm high and 38 mm in width
- Commander badge with war decoration of a lower class (September 14, 1914-1918): 70 mm high and 38 mm in width
- Commander badge with war decoration (September 14, 1914-1918): 70 mm high and 38 mm in width
- Commander badge with war decoration and swords (December 13, 1916 -1918): 76 mm high and 38 mm in width
- Officer cross (1901-1918): 70 mm height and 39-40 mm wide.
- Officer badge with war decoration of a lower class (September 14, 1914-1918): 70-73 mm height and 40-41 mm wide





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Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Size (continued)

- Officer badge with war decoration (September 14, 1914-1918): 70-75 mm height and 39-41 mm wide.
- Officer badge with war decoration and swords (December 13, 1916-1918): 77 mm height and 40-41 mm wide.
- Knight badge (1849-1918): 56-57 mm in height and 31-32 mm wide.

Type of Material: All badges were made of gold until 1916.

Badge:

- Brilliants and gold
- Gold and enamel
- Silver gilt and enamel (After 1916)
- Bronze gilt and enamel (After 1916)

Star:

- Silver, brilliants and gold
- Silver, gold and enamel
- Silver, silver gilt and enamel (After 1916)
- Silver, bronze gilt and enamel (After 1916)

Variations: As would be expected of an insignia that has been manufactured for such a long time, there are a number of variations of this award. Some noteworthy examples are described below

Badge

- **Type I Badge in all grades except the officer cross:** A gold, red enameled clawed cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). Between the arms is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). The cross is suspended from a hinged gold imperial crown. At the top of the badge is an orb with a cross through which passes the ring for suspending the badge from a ribbon. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles which attach the crown to the cross.





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Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Badge variations continued:

- **Type II Badge in all grades except the officer cross:** A gold, red enameled clawed cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). Between the arms is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. **The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads.** A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). The cross is suspended from a hinged **gold and red enamel** imperial crown. At the top of the badge is an orb with a cross through which passes the ring for suspending the badge from a red ribbon. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles which attach the crown to the cross.





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Image from Pinterest

Badge variations continued:

- **Type III: Grand Cross, Commander with Star and Commander Badge with war decoration of a lower class (August 13, 1916-1918)** A gold, red enameled clawed cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is a gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). The war decoration of a lower class is in the form of a green enameled wreath tightly rapped around the center medallion of the badge. Between the arms is a black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). The cross is suspended from a hinged gold imperial crown **within which is a red enameled liner**. At the top of the badge is an orb with a cross through which passes the ring for suspending the badge from a red ribbon. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles which attach the crown to the cross.





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Badge variations continued:

- **Type IV: Grand Cross, Commander with Star and Commander badge with war decoration of a lower class and swords of a lower class (December 13, 1916-1918):** A gold, red enameled clawed cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion on which is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). The war decoration of a lower class is in the form of a green enameled wreath tightly raped around the center medallion of the badge. Between the arms is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and out-stretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). The cross is suspended from a hinged gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles which attach the crown to the cross. Attached to the banderoles of the crown are crossed silver swords. At the top of the badge is an orb with a cross through which passes the ring for suspending the badge from a red ribbon.





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Badge variations continued:

- **Type V Badge, Grand Cross, Commander with Star and Commander Badge with war decoration, and swords of a lower class, December 13, 1916-1918:** A gold, red enameled clawed cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion on which is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). Between the arms is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). The cross is suspended from a hinged gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles which attach the crown to the cross. Attached to the banderoles of the crown are crossed **silver** swords. At the top of the badge is an orb with a cross through which passes the ring for suspending the badge from a red and white laddered war ribbon. (The war decoration is designated by the badge being worn on the war ribbon).





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Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Badge variations continued:

- **Type VI Badge, Grand Cross, Commander with star and Commander Badge with war decoration and swords, December 13, 1916-1918:** A gold, red enameled clawed cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion on which is a raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). Between the arms is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). The cross is suspended from a hinged gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles which attach the crown to the cross. Attached to the banderoles of the crown are crossed **gold** swords. At the top of the badge is an orb with a cross through which passes the ring for suspending the badge from a red and white laddered war ribbon. (The war decoration is designated by the badge being worn on the war ribbon).





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Badge variations continued:

- **Type III Knight Badge:** A gold, red enameled ,57 mm high and 32 mm wide clawed cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted and is transparent. In the obverse center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion on which is a raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). Between the arms is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). The cross is suspended from a hinged gold **Rupert's crown** within which is a red enameled liner. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles which attach the crown to the cross. At the top of the badge is an orb with a cross through which passes the ring for suspending the badge from a red and white laddered war ribbon.
- **Type IV Knight Badge:** As types I,II, III except with a dedication engraved on the reverse center medallion of the cross.



Images courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Badge variations continued:

- **Type I Officer Badge (1901-1918):** A gold, red enameled pin back clawed Latin cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). Between the arms is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). Above the cross is a gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. At the top of the crown is an orb with a cross. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles which attach the crown to the cross.
- **Type II Officer Badge with war decoration of a lower class (August 13, 1916-1918):** A gold, red enameled pin back clawed Latin cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). The war decoration of a lower class is in the form of a green enameled wreath tightly rapped around the obverse center medallion of the badge. Between the arms is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). Above the cross is a gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. At the top of the crown is an orb with a cross. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles which attach the crown to the cross.





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Variations continued:

- **Type III Officer Badge with war decoration of a lower class and swords of a lower class (December 13, 1916-1918):** A gold, red enameled pin back clawed Latin cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the raised old monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). The war decoration of a lower class is in the form of a green enameled wreath tightly raped around the obverse center medallion of the badge. Between the arms is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). Above the cross is a gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. At the top of the crown is an orb with a cross. Below the crown are crossed gold banderoles which attach the crown to the cross and on which are crossed silver swords.
- **Type IV Officer Badge with war decoration (December 14, 1914-June 2, 1915):** A gold, red enameled pin back clawed Latin cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). Between the arms is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). Above the cross is a gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. At the top of the crown is an orb with a cross. Below the crown are crossed golden banderoles which attach the crown to the cross. Behind the cross in the form of a circle is a war ribbon which serves as the war decoration.





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Variations continued:

- **Type V Officer Badge with war decoration (1916-1918):** A gold, red enameled pin back clawed Latin cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). Between the arms is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). Above the cross is a gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. At the top of the crown is an orb with a cross. Below the crown are crossed green enameled (**war decoration**) banderoles which attach the crown to the cross.





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Variations continued:

- **Type VI Officer Badge with war decoration, and swords of a lower class (December 13, 1916-1918):** A gold, red enameled pin back Latin clawed cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). Between the arms of the cross is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). Above the cross is a gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. At the top of the crown is an orb with a cross. Below the crown are crossed green enameled (**war decoration**) banderoles which attach the crown to the cross and on which are crossed **silver** swords.
- **Type VII Officer Badge with war decoration and swords (December 13, 1916-1918):** A gold, red enameled pin back clawed Latin cross with flared and rounded edges. The cross arms are engraved under the red enamel with a lined pattern. The enamel on the arms is slightly vaulted (convex) and is transparent. In the center of the badge is gold rimmed white enameled round medallion. Resting on the white enamel is the raised gold monogram **FJ**, (Franz Joseph). Between the arms is a, black enameled, gold double-headed imperial eagle with open and outstretched claws. The eagle has gold imperial crowns on its heads. A gold chain composed of oval links is suspended from the eagle's beaks and passes over the upper and lower arms of the cross and under the horizontal cross arms. The chain also passes over the eagle. The topmost links of the chain are joined by clasped golden gloved hands. On the links of the chain which pass over the lower arm of the cross is the motto of Franz Joseph's reign: **VIRIBUS UNITIS** (with united strength). Above the cross is a gold imperial crown within which in some cases is a red enameled liner. At the top of the crown is an orb with a cross. Below the crown are crossed green enameled (**war decoration**) banderoles which attach the crown to the cross and on which are crossed **gold** swords.





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Variations:

Grand Cross Star

- Type I star with large diamond cut facets and distinct rays. This type also has open spaces between the facets, which accentuate the rays. The star was 82 mm in diameter. (These date from approximately 1849 - 1872)
- Type II star with smaller and flatter facets and less distinct rays. The star was 92-95 mm in diameter. (These stars date from 1872 - 1900)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

- Type III: A star with less well defined facets and rays. This is the standard star body for all grand cross stars after 1900. The star is 92 mm in diameter.
- Type IV: The same as Type I, II and III except the star is encrusted with diamonds. The badge in the center of the star has a diamond encrusted border to its center medallion and monogram.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Variations:

Grand Cross Star with war decoration of a lower class

- Type I Grand Cross star with war decoration of a lower class, August 13, 1916-1918: A 90 mm in diameter eight pointed diamond cut silver metal star with a 65 by 38 mm red and white enameled center medallion. The center medallion is the obverse portion of the Franz Joseph Grand Cross badge with a green enameled wreath wrapped tightly around the round center medallion.
- Type II Grand Cross star with war decoration of a lower class, August 13, 1916-1918: A 90 mm in diameter eight pointed diamond cut silver metal star with a 65 by 38 mm red and white enameled center medallion. The center medallion is the obverse portion of the Franz Joseph Grand Cross badge with a gold laurel wreath wrapped tightly around the obverse of the Franz Joseph Cross. This type cross which was produced by Rothe and Neffe is reported by Mericka to be a prototype. However enough examples exist to warrant considering this to be a variant. Badges with this type war decoration and swords are also known to exist.





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Variations:

Commander with Star, Star

- Type I star with large diamond cut facets and distinct rays. This type also has open spaces between the facets, which accentuates the rays. The star was 80 mm in diameter with a 57 by 32 mm badge in its center. (These date from approximately 1869-1872)

- Type II star with smaller and flatter facets and less distinct rays. The star was 80 mm in diameter with a 57 by 32 mm badge in its center. (These stars date from 1872-1900)



- Type III: A star with less well defined facets and rays. This is the standard star body for all stars after 1900. The star is 80 mm in diameter with a 57 by 32 mm badge in its center.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Variations:

Commander with Star, star with war decoration of a lower class

- Type I Grand Cross star with war decoration of a lower class, (August 13, 1916-1918): A 80 mm in diameter eight pointed diamond cut silver metal star with a 57 by 32 mm red and white enameled center medallion. The center medallion is the obverse portion of the Franz Joseph Commander badge with a green enameled wreath wrapped tightly around the round center medallion
- Type II Grand Cross star with war decoration of a lower class, (August 13, 1916-1918): An 80 mm in diameter eight pointed diamond cut silver metal star with a 57 by 32 mm red and white enameled center medallion. The center medallion is the obverse portion of the Franz Joseph Commander badge with a gold laurel wreath wrapped tightly around the obverse of the Franz Joseph Cross. This type cross which was produced by Rothe and Neffe is reported by Mericka to be a prototype. However enough examples exist to warrant considering this to be a variant. Badges with this type war decoration and swords are also known to exist.





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Designer: Imperial and Royal senior designer Sprenger

Manufacturer:

- Vincent Mayer and sons (1849-1918)
- Wilhelm Kunz, Vienna
- Gebrüder Resch, Vienna and Bucharest, (1849-1914)
- Rothe & Neffe (1849-1918)
- F.Rothe (Knight Chain)
- Alexander Kittner, (1849-1918) Vienna (Made original insignia of this order and kettta in April 1850)
- Rozet and Fischmeister (1901-1918)
- Heinrich Ulbrecht's Witwe (1914-1918)
- Karl Bohm
- F. Braun, Vienna
- Schneider Bros. Vienna
- George Adam Scheid, Budapest and Vienna
- Carl Josef von Klinkosch (kettta)

Number Issued:

- Grand Cross: 1,051,25 with war decoration
- Commander: 2,707,138 with war decoration
- Commander with star: 1,369,66 with war decoration
- Officer: 2,345, 1,193 with war decoration
- Knight 19,160

Order of Precedence:

- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Grand Cross, Number 8 after the Order of the Iron Crown, knight first class and before the Military Maria Theresia order, Commander
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander with Star, Number 14 after the Order of the Iron Crown, knight second class and before the Order of Franz Joseph commander
- Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Commander, Number 15 after the Franz Joseph Order, Commander with Star and before the Military Maria Theresia order, knight
 - Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Officer, Number 22 after the Red Cross Merit Star and before the Order of the Iron Crown, knight third class
 - Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order, Knight, Number 24 after the Order of the Iron Crown, knight third class and before the Officers Bravery Medal in Gold





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)

Case: The cases for the Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order badge are found in a number of forms but very commonly they are in brown leather for the grand cross and black or red grained simulated leather for the lower classes of the badge. In all instances the lid bears the letters F.J.O. and in some cases the class of the order in gold. The inside of the lid is white satin and often has the name of the manufacturer and their address in gold lettering and is often accompanied with a gold imperial eagle. The inside of the lower lid is fitted with plush faun, black or white velvet. The bottom of the box is white paper and often has the date stamped on it in black ink or a sticker with the date. The bottom also sometimes has the case makers name in ink written on it. During the WWI era some cases were made by J.G. Bergmann.

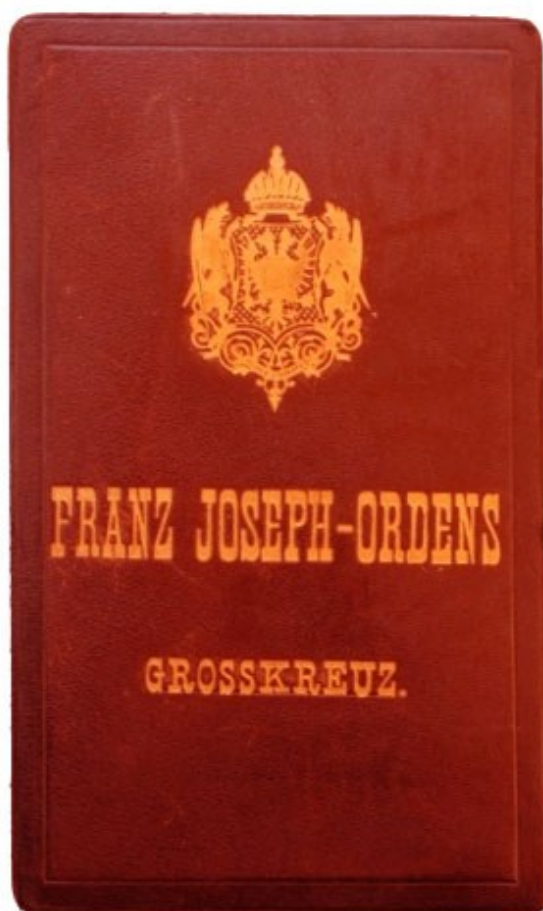
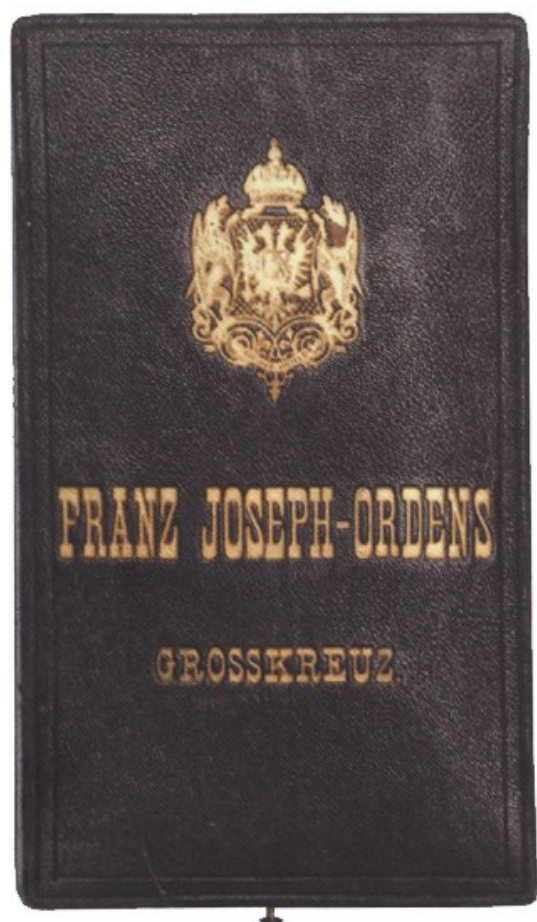


Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Case continued:



Grand Cross case interior





Orders of Knighthood
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)

Case continued:

Commander with
Star, star



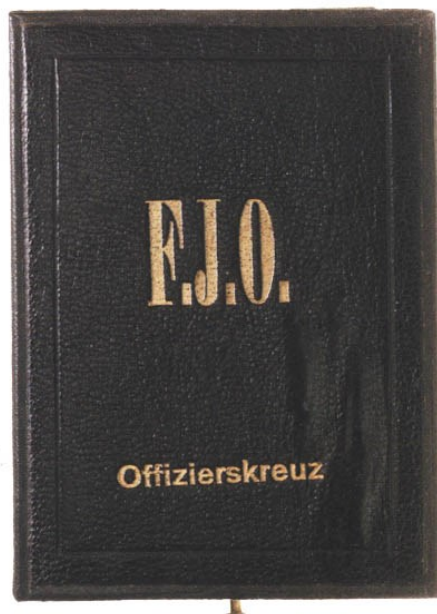
Commander interior





Orders of Knighthood
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)

Case continued:



Officer Cross with war decoration case June 2, 1915-1918



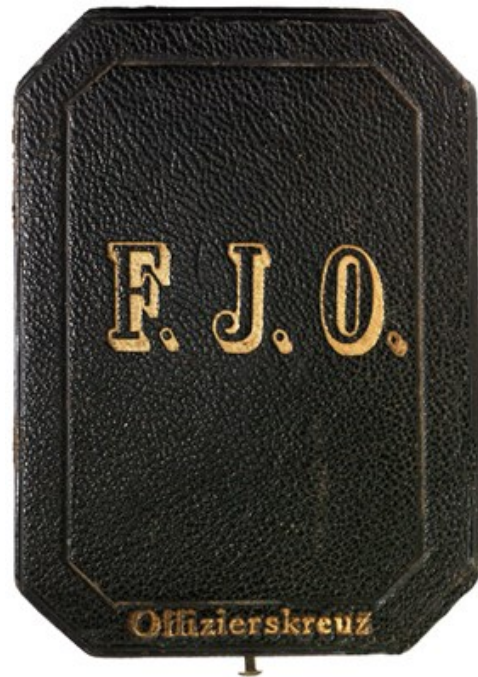


Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)

Case continued:



Officer Cross with war decoration case December 14, 1914-June 2, 1915

Images courtesy of Dorotheum





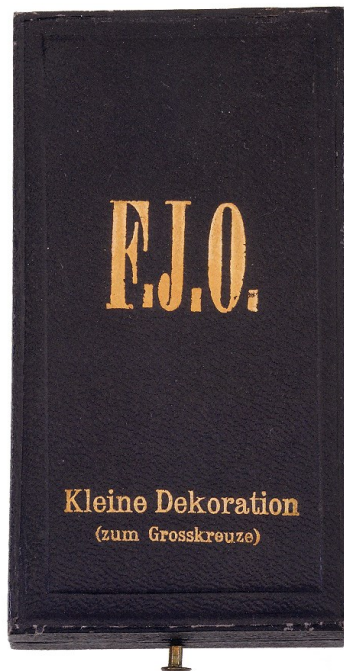
Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)

Case (continued):

Kleiner Case examples



Knight case interior

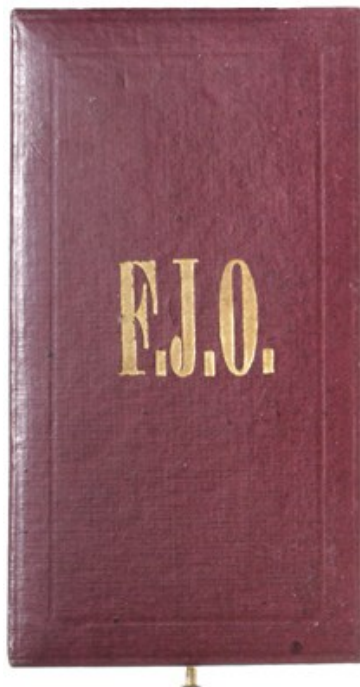
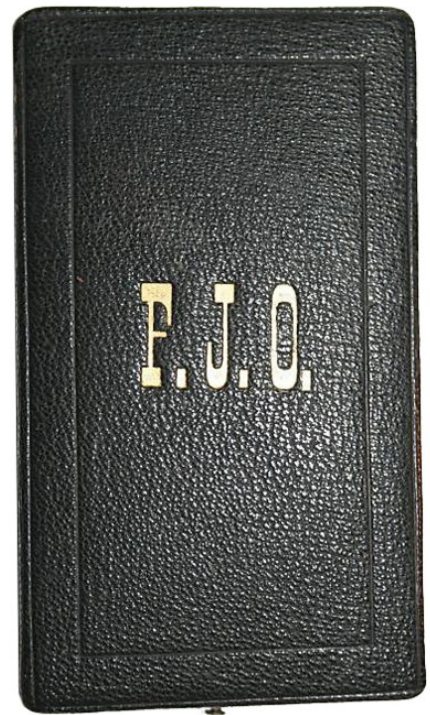
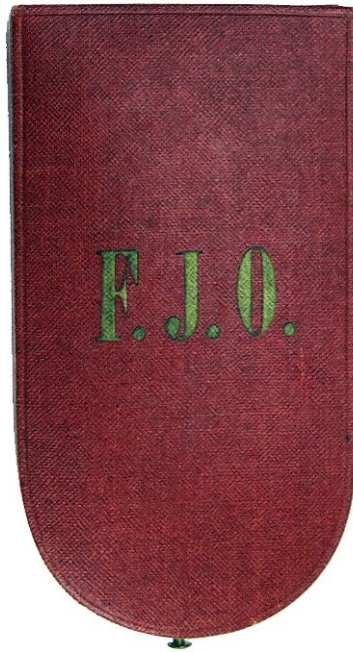
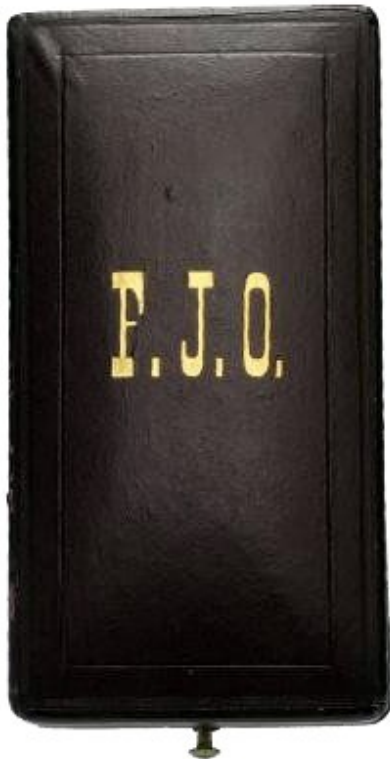




Orders of Knighthood
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)

Case (continued):

Knight case exterior





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

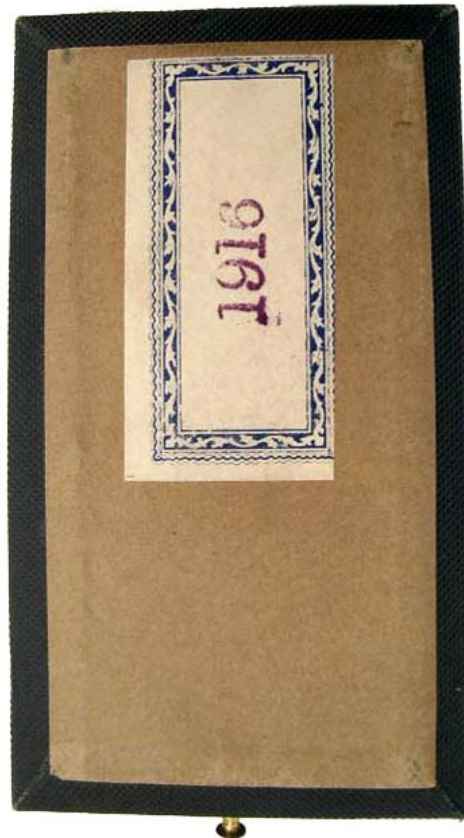
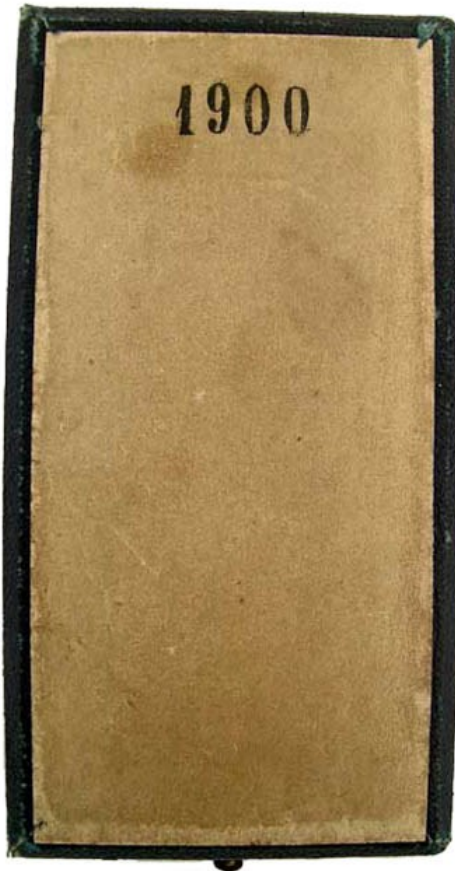
(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Case (continued):

- There were also presentation cases with personalized inscriptions

Bottom of cases





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Ribbon: The ribbon is a silk moiré crimson red or red and white laddered ribbon. All awards were issued on the red ribbon until September 14, 1914.

- Clergy wore the Grand Cordon as a collar, which was worn over the shoulders so that the badge rested at the center of the chest
- Grand Cross red ribbon (1849-1918), War Ribbon (August 1, 1917-1918) The Grand Cordon is 102 mm wide and does **not** have a rosette at the end of the ribbon. The grand cross badge is attached to a knot near the end of the sash. It was worn over the right shoulder with the badge resting on the left hip.



Grand Cross on Grand Cordon (1849-1914) and Civil Grand Cross (1914-1918)



Grand Cross on War Decoration Grand Cordon 1914-1918





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)

Franz Joseph Commander with Star (1869-1914) and Civil Commander with star (1914-1918, Commander badge (1849 –1914) and Civil Commander (1914-1918) on the red ribbon cravat

Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Ribbon (continued):

- The Civil Commander with Star and Commander ribbon is red and is 52 mm in width
- The Commander with Star and Commander war decoration ribbon is 52 mm in width (white 10 mm, red 42 mm, white 10 mm) and is worn around the neck or occasionally in a button hole

Franz Joseph Commander with Star and Commander badge on war ribbon cravat (September 14, 1914 -1918)





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Ribbon (Continued):

- Franz Joseph Officer with war decoration: a war ribbon in a circle pattern behind the Officer Cross (January 10-June 2, 1915)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum



- Franz Joseph Order Knight on 40 mm tri-fold red ribbon (circa 1900), see above
- Franz Joseph Order Knight on 40 mm tri-fold war decoration ribbon (September 14, 1914-1918), see above top right
- Franz Joseph Order Knight on 40 mm tri-fold war decoration ribbon with swords (December 13, 1916-1918), see right
- Franz Joseph Order Knight on 40 mm tri-fold war decoration ribbon with swords and second award bar (1918), see far right





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Ribbon Continued:

- Rectangular chest ribbons were introduced in October 27, 1917 with various attachments

Attachments:

- Gilt swords were added to the knight badge war ribbon to denote an award for bravery. (See previous page)
- There were discussions in 1918 about creating multiple award bars for the knights badge. It is unclear whether this proposal was implemented. If it was, any awards are thought to have been made by the Heller Commission. (See previous page)
- The ribbon attachments to designate the higher class of the award are: a miniature of the badge to denote the Officer and the Commander insignia, a miniature four pointed star to denote the commander with Star (See below). Attachments can be worn in combination.





Orders of Knighthood

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Ribbon Continued:

Attachments:

- The ribbon attachments to designate Grand Cross was a star to denote that class of the order. (See below)





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)

Attachments:

Kleine Badge: The Kleine for the Grand Cross was authorized on March 23, 1908 and for other grades on October 27, 1917. The Kleine insignia are:

- Officer Kleine (January 1918): A miniature officers cross **without** eagles on the civil ribbon of the knights badge
- Officer Kleine with war decoration of a lower class (C): A miniature officers cross **without** eagles on the civil ribbon of the knights badge. The cross has a green wreath raped tightly around the center medallion
- Officer Kleine with war decoration and swords of a lower class (January 1918): A miniature officers cross **without** eagles on the civil ribbon of the knights badge. The cross has a green wreath raped tightly around the center medallion and **silver** swords passing under it on the ribbon





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)

Attachments:

- Officer Kleine with war decoration (January 1918): A miniature officers cross **without** eagles on the war ribbon of the knights badge. The banderols of the miniature badge are green enameled (war Decoration)
- Officer Kleine with war decoration and swords of a lower class (January 1918): A miniature officers cross **without** eagles on the war ribbon of the knights badge. The banderols of the miniature badge are green enameled (war Decoration) and have **silver** swords placed on them. (In some cases the swords are full size and placed below the badge on the ribbon.)
- Officer Kleine with war decoration and swords (January 1918): A miniature officers cross **without** eagles on the war ribbon of the knights badge. The banderols of the miniature badge are green enameled (war Decoration) and have **gold** swords above them on the ribbon.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)

Attachments:

- Commander Kleine (January 1918): A miniature commander badge on the red ribbon of the knights badge
- Commander Kleine with war decoration of a lower class (January 1918): A miniature commander badge on the red ribbon of the knights badge with a green enameled wreath tightly rapped around its center medallion
- Commander Kleine with war decoration of a lower class and swords of a lower class (January 1918): A miniature commander badge on the red ribbon of the knights badge with a green enameled wreath tightly rapped around its center medallion accompanied by **silver** swords on the ribbon



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Attachments (Continued):

Kleine Badge:

- Commander Kleine with war decoration (January 1918): A miniature commander badge on the war ribbon of the knights badge
- Commander Kleine with war decoration and swords of a lower class (January 1918): A miniature commander badge on the war ribbon of the knights badge with **silver** swords
- Commander Kleine with war decoration and swords (January 1918): A miniature commander badge on the war ribbon of the knights badge with **gold** swords





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)

Attachments (Continued):

Kleine Badge:

- Commander with Star Kleine (January 1918): A 20 mm miniature commander star on the red ribbon of the knights badge
- Commander with Star Kleine with war decoration lower class (January 1918): A 20 mm miniature commander star with a green wreath tightly rapped around its center medallion on the red ribbon of the knights badge
- Commander with Star Kleine with war decoration lower class and swords of a lower class (October January 1918): A 20 mm miniature commander star with a green wreath tightly rapped around its center medallion on the red ribbon with **silver** swords of the knights badge





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)

Attachments (Continued):

Kleine Badge:

- Commander with Star Kleine with war decoration (January 1918): A 20 mm miniature commander star on the war ribbon of the knights badge
- Commander with Star Kleine with war decoration and swords of a lower class (January 1918): A 20 mm miniature commander star on the war ribbon with **silver** swords on the knights badge
- Commander with Star Kleine with war decoration and swords (January 1918): A 20 mm miniature commander star on the war ribbon with **gold** swords on the knights badge





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)

Attachments (Continued):

Kleine Badge:

- Grand Cross Kleine (March 23, 1908-1918): A 20 mm miniature grand cross star on the red ribbon of the knights badge
- Grand Cross Kleine with war decoration of a lower class (August 13, 1916-1918): A 20 mm miniature grand cross star with a green wreath tightly rapped around the center medallion of the badge on the red ribbon of the knights badge
- Grand Cross with war decoration and swords of a lower class Kleine (December 13, 1916-1918): A 20 mm miniature star with a green wreath tightly rapped around the center medallion and **silver** swords on the red ribbon of the knights badge



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Attachments (Continued):

Kleine Badge:

- Grand Cross Kleine with war decoration (August 1, 1917-1918): A 20 mm miniature grand cross star with war decoration on the war ribbon of the knights badge
- Grand Cross Kleine with war decoration and swords of a lower class (August 1, 1917-1918): A 20 mm miniature grand cross star with war decoration and **silver** swords on the war ribbon of the knights badge
- Grand Cross with war decoration and swords Kleine (August 1, 1917-1918): A 20 mm miniature grand cross star with war decoration and **gold** swords on the war ribbon of the knights badge





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Miniature: There is a wide variety of miniatures of this order including jeweled versions. One unusual aspect of the miniatures of this order is the order chains (Ketta) illustrated above and below. Order members when not attending formal order related events were allowed to wear a miniature of the order on a Ketta in the buttonhole.

The Knight Ketta which was established on December 25, 1850 is composed of twelve major links of gold and enamel, which are 6 mm wide. Between the major links are smaller links of gold. These smaller links are oval. At one end of the ketta is a fastener which may be in the form of a gold button, which is cut out and has a rayed star in its center. At the other end of the ketta are 23 gold oval links. The twelve major links come in two types. The first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth and eleventh link are in the form of a round white enameled gold shield with a gold imperial crown in its center. The second, fourth, sixth, eighth, tenth and twelfth link are in the form of round gold shields with the Emperor's monogram **FJ** in red in its center.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

- The Commander and commander with star Ketta which was established on December 25, 1850 is composed of ten major links of gold and enamel, which are 8 mm wide. Between the major links are smaller links of gold. These smaller links are oval. At one end of the ketta is a fastener which is often in the form of a gold button, which is cut out and has a rayed star in its center. At the other end of the ketta are 27 gold oval links. The eleven major links come in two types; the first, third and fifth, seventh, ninth and eleventh links are in the form of a black imperial eagle with two heads on which are gold crowns. On the eagle's breast is a white heart shaped shield, on which are the initials **FJ** in red. The second, fourth, sixth, eighth and tenth link are gold imperial crowns with flowing ribbons. On some older chains the crowns, which form one of the two components, do not have Pendilien (ribbons).





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Miniature (continued): The Grand Cross Ketta which was established on December 25, 1850 is composed of ten major links of gold and enamel, which are 11 mm wide. Between the major links are smaller links of gold. These smaller links are in the form of stylized figure eights. At one end of the Ketta is a gold button, which is cut out and has a rayed star in its center. At the other end of the Ketta are 22 gold oval links. The six major links come in two types; the first, third and fifth link are in the form of a black imperial eagle with two heads on which are gold crowns. On the eagle's breast is a red, white, red Austrian coat of arms. The second, fourth and sixth link are composed of two interlaced golden FJ ciphers in italic writing, which were overarched by the imperial crown.

The reverse of these Ketta are plain with in some cases having an engraved line following the contour of the links

The button on the end of the ketta is engraved with the motto of the reign of Franz Joseph I: **VIRIBUS Unitus.**

Alexander Kochert and Vincent Mayer and sons manufactured some of these miniature chains



Franz Joseph Knight Ketta in case





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order (Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)

Miniature (continued):



Commander Chain with badge

Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Knight Chain with Franz Joseph Order
and decorations

Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)

Miniature (Continued):



Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Miniature (Continued):

Franz Joseph rosette and case



Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Typical Recipients of the Franz Joseph Order Grand Cross

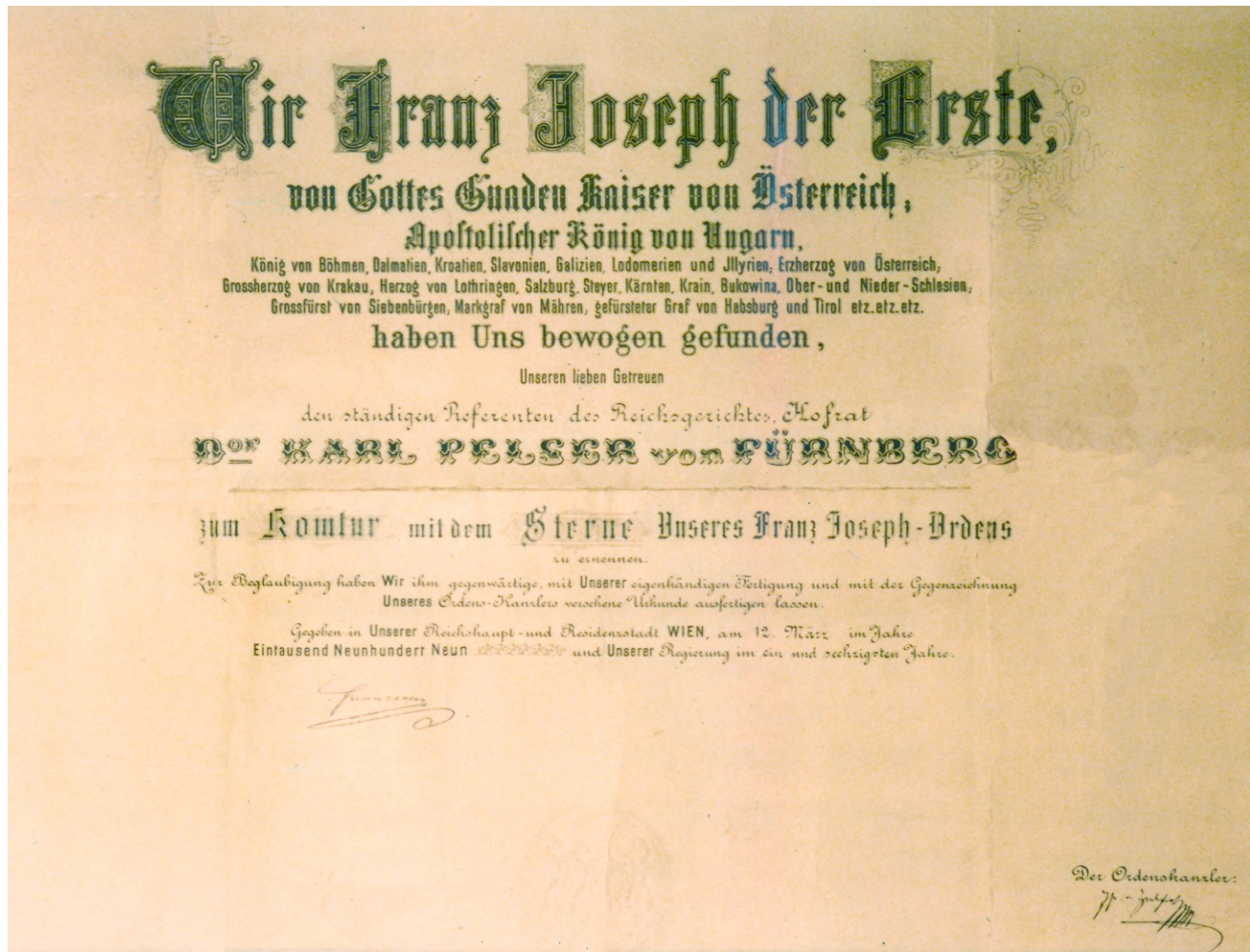
- Emperor Karl I Von Habsburg
- Felix Furst Schwarzenburg, Chancellor of the order
- Paul Freiherr Westerweller Von Anthoni, General der Infanterie, Senior Marshal of the German Imperial Court (1890)
- Karl Von Eisendecker, Vice Admiral, Envoy and Privy Councilor to the Prussian King (1883)
- Doctor Johann Szabo, Greek Orthodox Bishop of Szamos/Ujvar (1883)
- Vojvode Ilija Plamenatz, Royal Montenegrin Minister of War (1885)
- Julius Blum Pasha, Originally in the service of the Austrian Privy Credit Institution for Commerce and trade, then Director of the Austro/Egyptian Bank in Egypt (1887)
- Otto Von Derenthall, General der Infanterie, Flag Adjutant to the German Kaiser and King (1887)
- Freidrich Schuch, Royal Prussian Generalleutnant, Commander in Posen (1909)
- Erich Graf Keilmanseff, Royal and Imperial Privy Councilor and Chamberlain (1892)
- Max Freiherr Von Pitner, Admiral of the Austrian Navy, Privy Councilor (1898)
- Doctor Franz Freiherr Schiessl Von Perstorff, Cabinet Director for his Royal and Imperial Majesty, Royal and Imperial Privy Councilor Chancellor of the Order of the Golden Fleece (1898)
- Guido Freiherr Von Call Zu Rosenberg und Kulmbach, Royal and Imperial Privy Councilor and Ambassador to Tokyo (1899)
- Karl Von Einem, Generalleutnant, Royal Prussian Minister of War (1907)
- Karl Von Bulow, Royal Prussian General der infanterie and Army Chief of Staff (1904)
- Conrad Von Schubert, Royal Prussian Generalleutnant, Member of the German Reichstag and the Prussian Parliament in Berlin (1900)
- Doctor Michael Napotnik, Archbishop of Lavant, Privy Councilor, Court Prelate and Throne Assistant to the Pope, Member of the Austrian Court, The Steirmark Landtag and Faculty to the Doctrine College of Theologians at the University of Vienna (1900)
- Alexis Von Koudriavtzev, Chamberlain to the Russian Czar (1906)
- Doctor Franz Salesius Bauer, Cardinal and Archbishop of Olmutz (1911)
- Klemens Ernuszt Von Gerdovchak, Royal and Imperial Privy Councilor (1900)
- Andreas Emanuel Kopassis, Furst Von Samos, Sultan of Samos (1907)
- Roald Amundsen, Norwegian Explorer (1907)
- Doctor Josef Kerzl, Privy Councilor and General Staff Physician of the Landwehr (1907)
- Felix Freiherr Lexa Von Aehrenthal, Royal and Imperial Privy Councilor (1909)
- Doctor Karl Lueger, Privy Councilor and Burgermeister of Vienna (1907)
- Doctor Heinrich Von Roza, Royal and Imperial Privy Councilor and the Acting President of the Vienna Planning Commission (1907)
- Hans Freiherr Von Lassberg, Royal Bavarian Chancellor (1909)





Orders of Knighthood
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)

Award Certificates:



Doctor Karl Pelser Von Furnberg
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
Commander with Star
1900





Orders of Knighthood
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Award Certificates (Continued):

583
F. J. O.



Seine kaiserliche und königlich-Apostolische Majestät,

FRANZ JOSEPH I.

Kaiser von Österreich, König von Böhmen etc. etc. etc.

und
Apostolischer König von Ungarn,

haben mit Allerhöchster Entschliessung

vom 6. Mai 1900

dem königlich preussischen Oberstlieutenant,
Commandanten des Garde-Schützen-Bataillons,

Herrn

Freiherrn von Röder

das Comthurkreuz

Allerhöchstihres Franz-Josef-Ordens

allergnädigst zu verleihen geruht.

Die Ordens-Kanzlei becht sich, mit Beziehung auf die
bereits erfolgte Übergabe der Ordens-Decoration das Ersuchen zu stellen,
den mitfolgenden Revers über die künftige Zurückstellung des Ordens,
gefälligst mit Beisetzung des Datums unterfertigen und denselben
durch die zustellende Behörde an die Ordens-Kanzlei zurückge-
langen lassen zu wollen.

Wien, den 24. Mai 1900

Der Ordenskanzler

Freiherr von Röder
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
Commander
1900

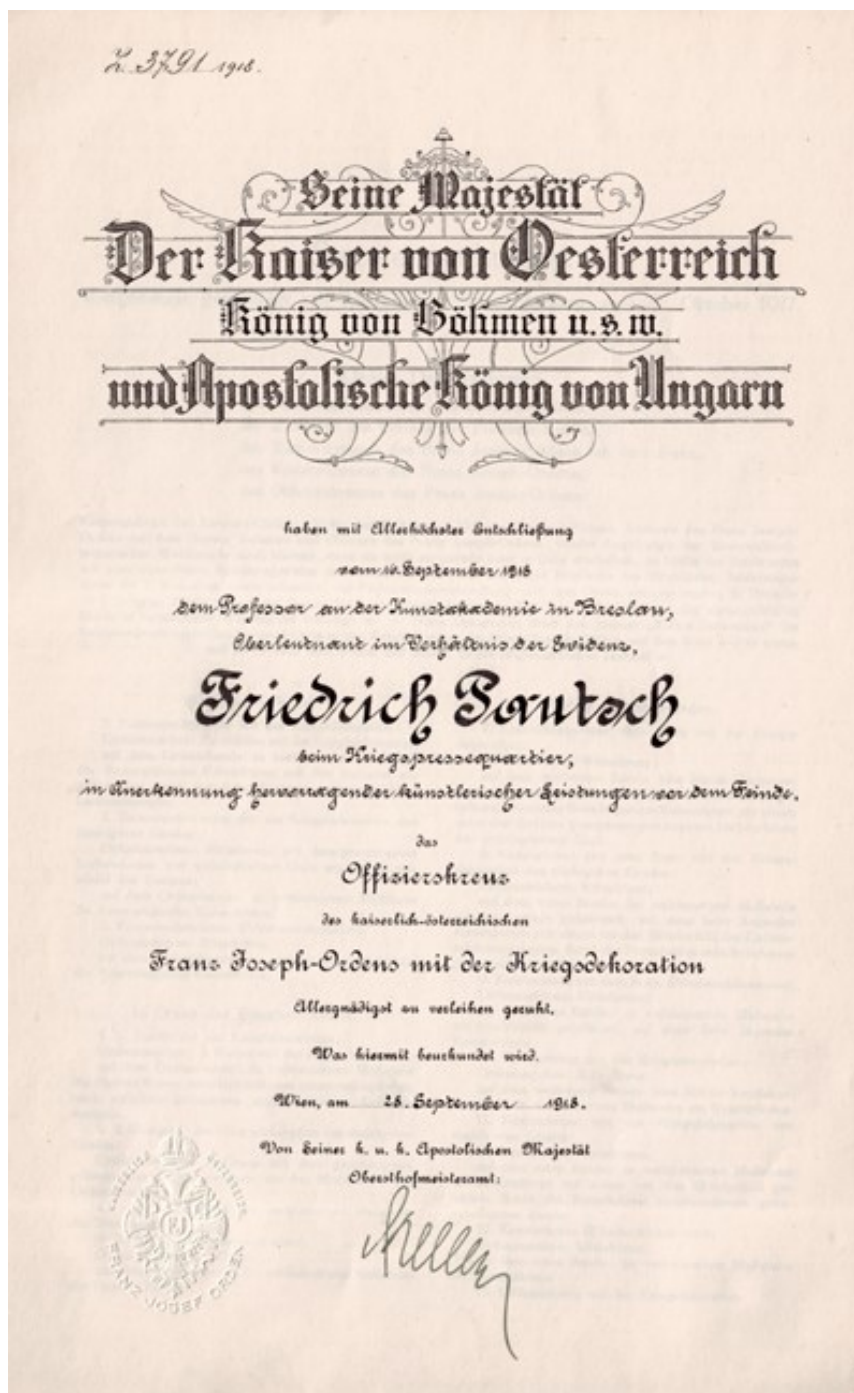




Orders of Knighthood
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Award Certificates (Continued):



Freidrich Poutsch
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
Officer with war decoration
1918





Orders of Knighthood
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Award Certificates (Continued):



Adolf Mahrenholz
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
Officer Cross
1912

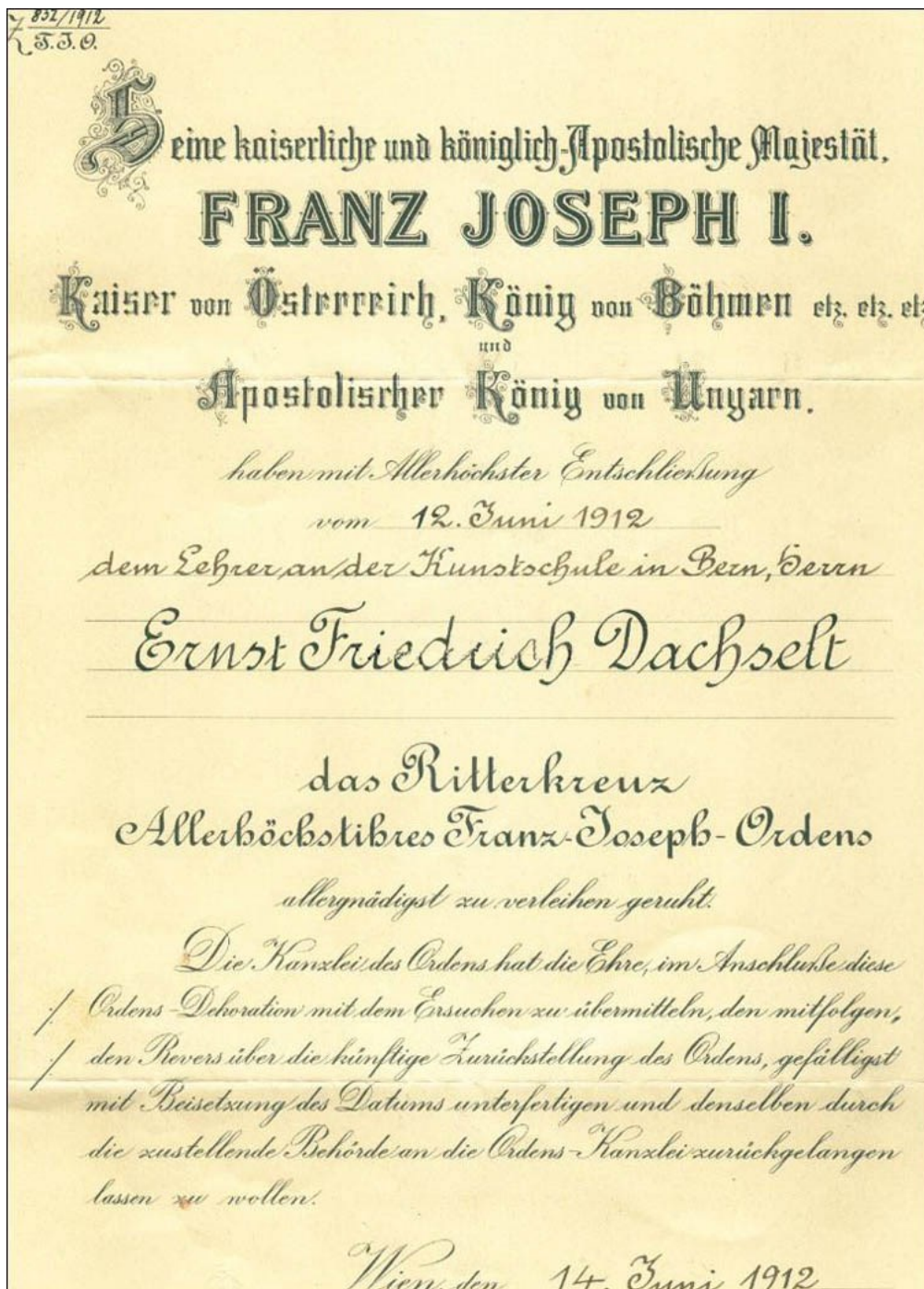




Orders of Knighthood
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Award Certificates (Continued):



Ernst Freidrich Dachzelt
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
Knight Cross
1912





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order

(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order knight badge on bar as awarded to a foreigner





Orders of Knighthood
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Admiral Max Freiherr von Pitner
Wearing the Grand Cross Star and red sash of the Austrian Imperial Franz Joseph Order





Orders of Knighthood
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Feldmarschalleutnant Freidrich Thiele
Wearing the Austrian Imperial Franz Joseph Order Grand Cross star





Orders of Knighthood
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)

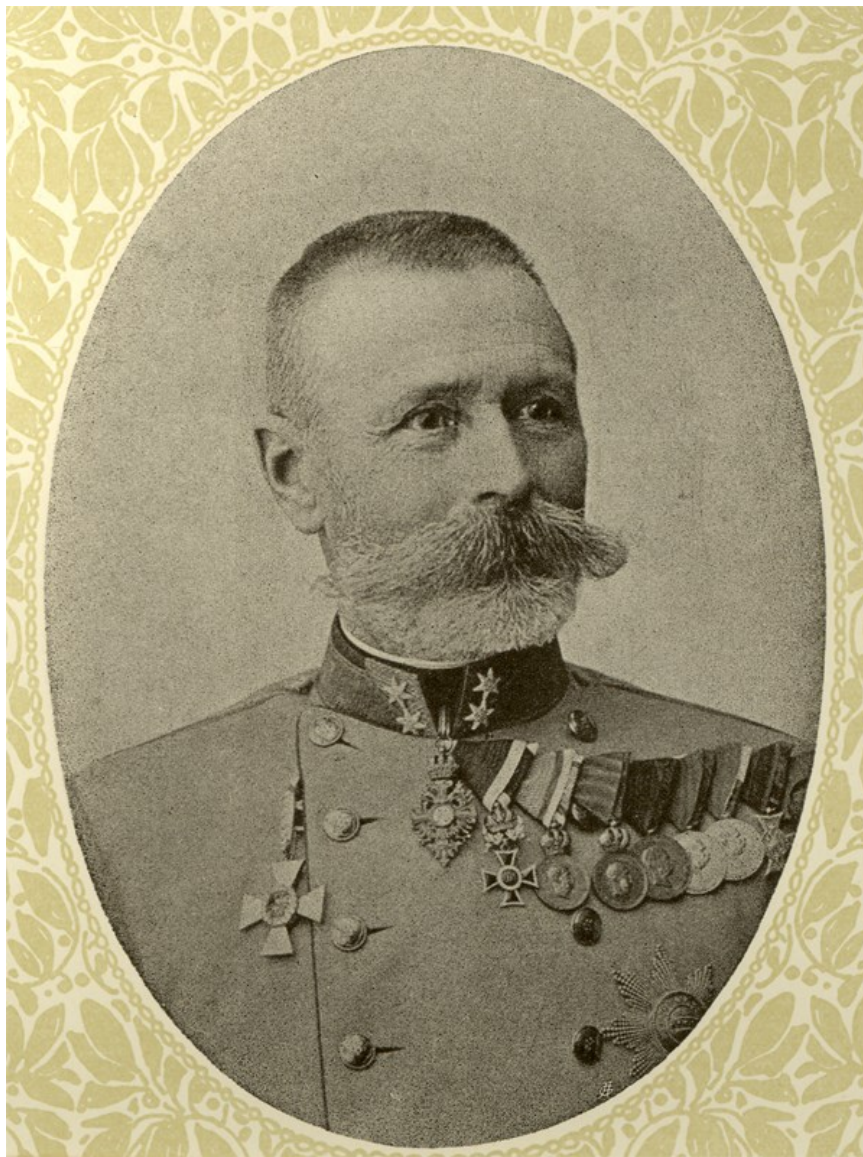


Bishop Karel Boromejsky Hanl zu Kirchtreu
Wearing the Grand Cross badge and star of the Austrian Imperial Franz Joseph Order
on the red grand cordon in the form of a collar





Orders of Knighthood
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Feldmarschall-Leutnant Emil Freiherr von Guttenberg
Wearing the Commander badge of the Austrian Imperial Franz Joseph Order on the red ribbon





Orders of Knighthood
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)

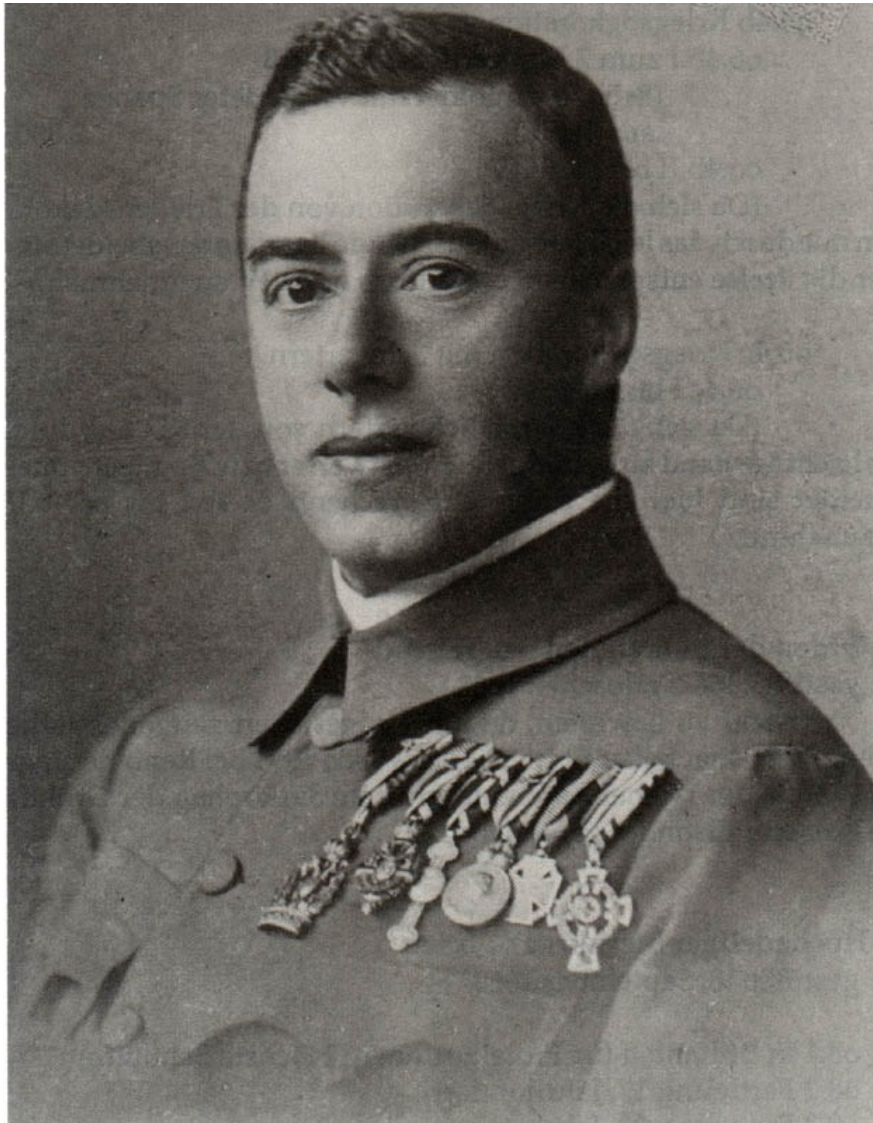


General of Infantry Sandor Freiherr von Szurmay
Wearing the Order of Franz Joseph officer cross with war decoration





Orders of Knighthood
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



**An official wearing the
knight badge of the Austrian Imperial Franz Joseph Order with war decoration and swords**





Orders of Knighthood
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



A Feldkuret
Wearing the Knight badge with war decoration of the Austrian Imperial Franz Joseph Order





Orders of Knighthood
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



The Chief Magistrate of Vienna Magisterial District 15
Wearing the Knight badge of the Austrian Imperial Franz Joseph Order on the red ribbon





Orders of Knighthood
Imperial Austrian Franz Joseph Order
(Kaiserlich-Österreichische Franz-Joseph-Orden)



Doctor Fritz Plachky
Wearing the Knight chain of the Austrian Imperial Franz Joseph Order





Orders of Knighthood

The Most Noble Star Cross Order

(Das Hochadelige Sternkreuz-Orden)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Type III Badge

Date Issued: September 18, 1668-to date

Reason Issued: This order was confirmed by Pope Leo IX on June 28, 1668 and established as an Austrian Order by Emperor Leopold I on September 7, 1668. The order had been conceived by the Dowager Empress Eleonora de Gonzaga, the mother of Emperor Leopold I and the widow of Emperor Ferdinand III who created the order to commemorate what she considered to be a miracle. Since living memory there was in the possession of the Habsburg dynasty a precious relic, which consisted of a small piece of wood, which tradition said came from Christ's cross. Emperors Maximilian I and Ferdinand III always carried this relic in peacetime and in war inside a golden cross. After the death of Emperor Ferdinand III it was given to his successor Emperor Leopold I. Empress Eleonora de Gonzaga his stepmother was allowed to place the cross and chain into a small crystal and enamel decorated wooden box, which was covered by silk material. On February 6, 1668 a fire broke out in the imperial castle in Vienna and destroyed the lower floor of the newly built wing, where the former empress had her dwelling and her bedroom. The fire spread so fast that it was only with the greatest difficulty that she and her daughters escaped; they however did not succeed in saving the decorated box, in which the precious jewel with the wood believed to be from the holy cross was kept. When the Empress discovered this loss, she ordered that all of the burned area should be searched. After five days of exhaustive searching in the ruins and the debris the lost jewel, which was damaged due to the fact that box had collapsed when the metal parts of it had melted and the enamel had shattered from the heat was found. The Empress was very surprised to find in the midst of the badly damaged golden jewel the wood of the holy cross had remained completely intact. She believed that this was a miracle.

The incident made a strong impression on the deeply religious Empress, She then considered memorializing the miracle by the establishing a society of god-fearing noble women who would venerate and honor the holy cross. The members of the new order should dedicate themselves to the service and adoration of the holy cross, so as to receive its blessings through their efforts to incorporate religious virtues in their daily life as they supported religious and charitable activities.

On July 28, 1668 Pope Clement IX confirmed the order society and made the conformation official with a bull published on July 27, 1668. Emperor Leopold I on September 18 of the same year proclaimed the Dowager Empress Eleonora as founder and Oberste Schutzfrau (Principle Female Protector of the order, this corresponds to becoming the grand master). The order's first assembly of high ranking aristocratic women was held using the original title of Order of the Star Cross and only later was the name changed to the Most Noble Star Cross Order. (The name was derived from a constellation in the southern night sky, the Southern Cross.) The idea being that the star cross would guide the ladies to a safe harbor with god just as the star cross aids navigators in the southern hemisphere.





Orders of Knighthood

The Most Noble Star Cross Order (Das Hochadelige Sternkreuz-Orden)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum



Type III Badge

Reason Issued (continued):

The order was created exclusively for members of the aristocracy, and in the statutes it was determined that the order would accept an unlimited number of persons to its membership, but those seeking admission would have to submit an application, along with a diagram of the family tree and family coat of arms.

The order members committed themselves when they joined the order to serve the catholic church to worship the holy cross as the highest and holiest symbol of Christianity, to live a virtuous and righteous life and to commit to the thoughtful practice of religious ceremonies, to be caring and merciful to the ill and infirm, and to be charitable to those in need. The decision to admit a member into the order was the sole province of the Order Protector, who was always the respective Empress or an Archduchess selected by her.

Classes or Types: This badge was issued in one class

Interesting Facts:

- Recipients of the order had to be noble ladies of the Catholic faith
- Recipients were originally required to have twelve (eight on her father's side and four on her mother's side), later eight (five paternal and four maternal), noble ancestors. She must also be married to a Catholic nobleman who is either a Royal and Imperial Chamberlain or a member of the Order of St. John. He must have sixteen noble ancestors. Since 2007 recipients must be catholic and living in a valid marriage.
- Archduchesses and ladies of the court may be single when inducted into the order. All others must be married to a gentleman of equal rank
- The Order festival days are February 6, May 3, September 14 and the Thursday before Palm Sunday
- The order was awarded in jeweled versions
- Each badge was handmade
- September 14 is the official high holiday of the order (dedicated to the memory to the solemn triumph of the Greek Emperor Heraclius, who later liberated the holy cross from the Persians and returned it to Jerusalem).
- New members were usually accepted into the order on May 3 or September 14, with the admission solemnly celebrated in the imperial chapel in presence of the Order Protector.
 - The officers of the order are the Most High Patron (The empress or a Archduchess selected by her, Assistant Patronesses, four Lady Councilor's, a chancellor, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and a Chancery clerk.





Orders of Knighthood

The Most Noble Star Cross Order

(Das Hochadelige Sternkreuz-Orden)



Interesting Facts (Continued):

Image form Pinterest

- The first High Patron of the Order (female Grand Master) was Eleonora de Gonzaga (1668-1686), she was followed by Empress Eleonore Magdalena (1686-1720), Empress Amelia Wilhelmine (1720-1742), Empress Elizabeth Christine (1742-1750), Empress Maria Theresia (1750-1780), Empress Maria Ludovika (1780-1792), Empress Maria Theresia of Naples and the Two Sicily's (1792-1807), Maria Ludovika Beatrix (1807-1816), Empress Karoline Augusta (1816-1873), Empress Elisabeth Amalie (1873-1898), Archduchess Maria Josepha (1898-1916), Empress Zita (1916-1951), Archduchess, Regina (1951-2010), Archduchess Gabriela Maria (2010 to date).

Hallmarks:

- 580 Gold assay mark
- 1872-1922, 800 Fine silver hallmark
- The 1867-1872 Freidrich Rotha Hallmark
- The 1885-1922 Freidrich Rotha Hallmark

Design: An oval in gold and enamel with a ball and eye at the top

Obverse: A red enameled Greek cross with a fine gold border. This cross is bordered in blue enamel with a fine gold edge. Between the arms of the cross is an uncrowned double headed imperial eagle in black and gold enameled. Around the eagle is a blue enameled (white in early versions) border edged inside and out in gold. Across the top of the badge is a white enameled ribbon on which is engraved in gold letters **SALUS ET GLORIA** (Salvation and Glory). At the top of the badge are gold clouds, above which is a gold ball shaped eye for suspending the badge from a ribbon.

Reverse: The same as the obverse

Weight: The weight of order can vary considerably depending on the materials of which it is made. Typical examples are sighted below

- A circa 1800 Gold badge: 20.4 grams
- A circa 1850 Gold badge: 13.6 –14.3 grams
- A circa 1880 Gold badge: 21.1 grams

Size: having been manufactured over such a long time the size of these badges varies. Typical sizes are 42 to 48 mm in height and 31.6 to 36 mm in width





Orders of Knighthood

The Most Noble Star Cross Order (Das Hochadelige Sternkreuz-Orden)



Type I Badge

Type of Material:

- Gold and enamel
- Gold, jewels and enamel
- Silver gilt and enamel

Variations:

- Type I: A red enameled Greek cross with a fine gold border. This cross is bordered in blue enamel with a fine gold edge. Between the arms of the cross is an uncrowned double headed imperial eagle in black and gold enameled. At the end of each horizontal arm is a stylized Scallop shell. Around the eagle is a dark blue enameled border edged inside and out in gold and with asterisks in gold at the end of each side of the border. Across the top of the badge is a white enameled ribbon on which is engraved in gold letters **SALUS ET GLORIA** (Salvation and Glory). At the top and bottom of the badge are gold clouds. Above the clouds at the top of the badge is a gold ball shaped eye for suspending the badge from a ribbon.
- Type II: A red enameled Greek cross with a fine gold border. This cross is bordered in blue enamel with a fine gold edge. Between the arms of the cross is an uncrowned double headed imperial eagle in black and gold enameled. At the end of each horizontal arm is a stylized Scallop shell. Around the eagle is a black enameled border edged inside and out in gold and with asterisks in gold at the end of each side of the border. Across the top of the badge is a white enameled ribbon on which is engraved in gold letters **SALUS ET GLORIA** (Salvation and Glory). At the top and bottom of the badge are gold clouds. Above the clouds at the top of the badge is a gold ball shaped eye for suspending the badge from a ribbon.



Type II Badge





Orders of Knighthood

The Most Noble Star Cross Order (Das Hochadelige Sternkreuz-Orden)



Type III Badge

Variations:

- Type III: A garnet-red chased enameled Greek cross with a fine gold border. This cross is bordered in light-blue enamel with a fine gold edge. Between the arms of the cross is an uncrowned double headed imperial eagle in black and gold enameled. Around the eagle is a blue enameled border edged inside and out in gold. Across the top of the badge is a white enameled ribbon which is divided into three parts, on which is engraved in gold letters **SALUS ET GLORIA** (Salvation and Glory). At the top of the badge is a gold floral and wreath design through which passes a ring to or suspending the badge from a ribbon. The bottom of the badge has a round hole in the border in line with the bottom of the cross.
- Type IV: The form of the first issued badges was a golden red enameled cross, the arms of which were of an equal length. The red enameled cross was embedded in a larger gold cross of the same shape. In the center of the cross is placed a small medallion with the letters **I.H.S.V** (IN HOC SIGNO Vincas) (in this sign Conquer). Between the cross arms were placed four black single headed eagles with spread wings. The whole order insignia was circumscribed by a golden, white enameled, convoluted ribbon which had in its upper portion the inscription **SALUS ET GLORIA** (Salvation and Glory). (Probably never issued)
- Type V: A golden red enameled cross, the arms of which were of an equal length. The red enameled cross was embedded in a larger gold cross of the same shape. In the center of the cross is placed a small medallion with the letters **I.H.S.V** (IN HOC SIGNO Vincas) (in this sign Conquer). The cross was placed upon a black imperial two headed eagle and the whole insignia was embedded in an oval golden medallion, which was decorated with enameled ornamentation in the shape of wavy lines and with a white wavy ribbon, with the motto **SALUS ET GLORIA** (Salvation and Glory) arranged into four parts.
- Type VI: The same as Type V except this configuration featured a three part cartouch with the motto that was shaped as small open work and decorated frames, which passed over and behind a portion of the wavy ribbon. It also does not have the I.H.S.V in the center of the cross
- Type VII: This badge retains the cross with the medallion in the center, however the shape of its decorative borders at this time became more pronounced and shells or scallops which were popular at the time were placed on the ends of the horizontal arms of the cross. The top of the order insignia has an overlapping ribbon the upper part of which contained the inscription **SALUS** and the lower part **ET GLORIA** (Salvation and Glory).





Orders of Knighthood

The Most Noble Star Cross Order (Das Hochadelige Sternkreuz-Orden)



Type IX Badge

Variations continued:

- Type VIII: This badge has a red and light-blue enameled gold cross in the center. The cross is placed upon a black imperial two headed eagle. The shape of the type VII decorative borders remained although they are now enameled dark blue rather than white and are embellished with two round asterisk shaped medallion at the top and bottom of the ribbon border. There are shells or scallops on the ends of the horizontal arms of the cross. The top of the order insignia has a white enameled ribbon on which in gold is the inscription **SALUS ET GLORIA** (Salvation and Glory). The badge is suspended from a pointed ball shaped knob at the top through which passes the suspension ring
- Type IX: This badge retains the red and light-blue enameled gold cross in the center. The cross is placed upon a single finely wrought and detailed black imperial two headed eagle. The shape of the type III decorative borders remains the same but the enamel is a darker blue. The top of the order insignia has a white enameled ribbon on which in gold is the inscription **SALUS ET GLORIA** (Salvation and Glory). The badge is suspended from an eye atop a triangular shaped appendage (circa 1800)
- Type X: The same as the Type IX badge except that the center portion of the cross is jeweled.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

The Most Noble Star Cross Order (Das Hochadelige Sternkreuz-Orden)



Type XII Badge

Variations continued:

- Type XI: Type This type badge has a gold cross bordered in teal-green enamel in the center. The cross is placed upon a single finely wrought and detailed black imperial two headed eagle. The shape of the type IX decorative border remains the same. The top of the order insignia has a white enameled ribbon on which in gold is the inscription **SALUS ET GLORIA** (Salvation and Glory). The lower portion of the border of the badge is also enameled green. The badge is suspended from an eye atop a round decorative appendage. This circa 1860 cross is described in the OMSA Journal Volume 67 Number 2 as having been owned by the Empress Eugenie of France.
- Type XII: The badge in diamonds. The Empress Maria Theresia wore an order insignia of the Star Cross Order in diamonds, on a ribbon, which was also decorated with a mosaic of diamonds.

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer:

- Vincent Mayer & Sons, Vienna
- C.F. Rothe of Vienna

Number Issued: From the inception of the order until 1909 there were 78 ladies from the ruling house of the empire (Habsburg) and 844 ladies from noble families including those of foreign nations who had been or were members of this order.

Order of Precedence: Not included in the order of precedence





Orders of Knighthood

The Most Noble Star Cross Order (Das Hochadelige Sternkreuz-Orden)

Case:

- The Type I case, circa 1850 and thereafter were red grained leather or linen simulating leather with the order insignia depicted in gold on the lid. The lid also has fine gold scroll work on its edges. The inside of the lid is white satin and often has the logo of the maker in gold. The inside of the lower lid is fitted with plush fawn colored velveteen. The bottom of the box is black paper.
- The Type II case for jeweled versions of this award are in royal blue velvet with a crown and the monogram of Maria Theresia on the lid. The interior is also royal blue fitted velvet.
- The Type III Case for this award is in black velvet with a representation the award on the lid. The interior is fawn colored fitted velvet.



Images courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood
The Most Noble Star Cross Order
(Das Hochadelige Sternkreuz-Orden)



Empress Elisabeth
wearing the Starry Cross
Order in Diamonds

Recipients of the Order in Diamonds

- Empress Maria Theresia (1772-1807)
- Empress Elisabeth (1837-1898)
- Empress Zita (1892-1989)



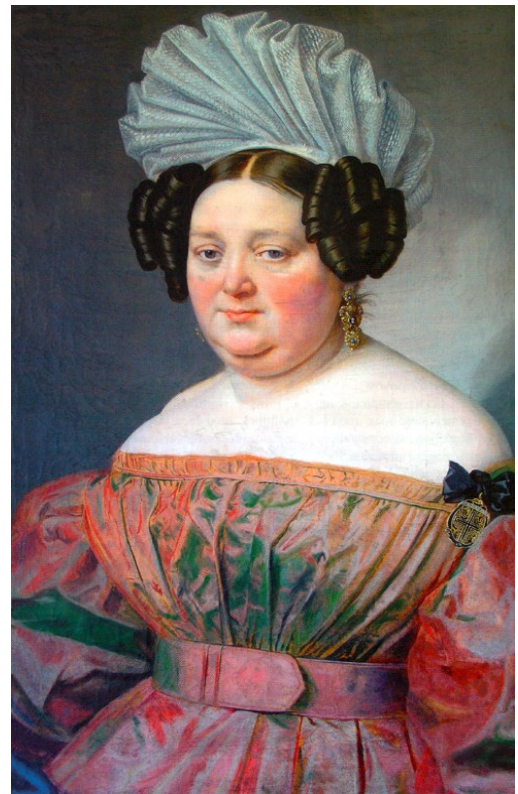


Orders of Knighthood

The Most Noble Star Cross Order (Das Hochadelige Sternkreuz-Orden)



**Paula Svob Duchess
of Haslau**



**Maria Anna Josefa Do-
brzenska Von Perglerova zu
Parglasu**

Some Prominent Recipients of the Order

- Empress Margaret Therese (Wife of Leopold I) (1651-1673)
- Eleonora de Gonzaga (1629-1686)
- Archduchess Eleonore Maria von Habsburg
- Archduchess Maria Anna Josepha von Habsburg
- Empress Eleonore Magdalena (1699)
- Empress Amalie Wilhelmine (1673-1742)
- Empress Elizabeth Christine (1691-1750)
- Empress Maria Theresia (1717-1780),
- Empress Maria Ludovika (1745-1792)
- Maria Ludovika (1787-1816)
- Empress Karoline Augusta (1792-1884)
- Empress Elisabeth (1873-1898)
- Archduchess Maria Josepha (1867-1916)
- Empress Zita (1916-1951)
- Archduchess Regina (1951-2010)
- Archduchess Gabriela (2010-)
- Paula Svob Duchess of Haslau
- Maria Anna Josefa Dobrzenska Von Perglerova zu Parglasu
- Carlota Joaquina, Queen of Portugal
 - Archduchess Maria Amalia of Austria
 - Archduchess Maria Anna Josepha Antonia of Austria





Orders of Knighthood

The Most Noble Star Cross Order (Das Hochadelige Sternkreuz-Orden)



Ribbon:

- The ribbon is black silk moiré and was worn folded into a bow, and fastened to the left shoulder or on the left side of the chest.
- The ribbon of the order insignia of the Star Cross Order in diamonds, was also in some instances decorated with a mosaic of diamonds.



Image attributed to Österreichs Orden , vom Mittelalter bis zur Gegenwart, Johann Stolzer & Christian Steeb

Miniature: Miniatures are known to exist



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

The Most Noble Star Cross Order

(Das Hochadelige Sternkreuz-Orden)



Award Document
1699





Orders of Knighthood
The Most Noble Star Cross Order
(Das Hochadelige Sternkreuz-Orden)

Wir
Elisabeth

von Gottes Gnaden Kaiserin von Oesterreich, Königin von Ungarn, Böhmen,
Galizien und Lodomerien &c. &c.

Gemalin Seiner Majestät des Kaisers **FRANZ JOSEPH I.** geborne Herzogin in Bayern

Geben hiemit der Lieben Andächtigen *Eleonore Reichsgräfin von und zu Deutschbroeck gem. v. Sickingen zu Wiedisch-Heitz*

zu vernehmen: das Wir Uns bewegen finden, derselben den zur Fortpflanzung der immerwährenden Verehrung des heiligen Kreuzes gestifteten adelichen Sternkreuz-Orden nach bewiesenen Ahnenproben in Gnaden zu verleihen. Wir befehlen zugleich das ihr gegebene Ordenszeichen an der linken Seite der Brust zu tragen, und versehen Uns, das sie nie unterlassen werde, sich durch wahre Andacht und Frömmigkeit dieses Ordens würdig zu bezeugen, und den bestehenden Ordensregeln nachzuleben. Auch wollen Wir, das im Falle ihres Ablebens das Ordenszeichen von ihrem Erben oder Auserwählten Unserem Ordens-Secretär binnen Monatsfrist zurückgesandt werde, damit die üblichen Andachten verrichtet werden können. Lebzeiten bleiben Wir derselben in Gnaden gezeuget. Gegeben zu Wien am 5^{ten} April 1881.

Nach Ihrer k. k. Majestät
höchst eigenem Befehle.

Josef Jakob von Sickingen (verm.)
Erster Hofkanzler
k. k. Hofkanzler

Erste Gräfin zu Sickingen-Heinsdorf
geb. Gräfin von Bellingrath

Award Document
1881





Orders of Knighthood
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(Das Hochadelige Sternkreuz-Orden)



KAISERLICHE PRINZESSIN UND ERZHERZOGIN VON OESTERREICH,
KOENIGLICHE PRINZESSIN VON UNGARN, BOEHMEN ETC. ETC.,
GEBORENE KOENIGLICHE PRINZESSIN VON SACHSEN, HERZOGIN ZU SACHSEN,

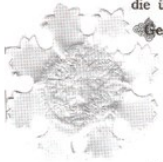
Geben hiemit der Lieben Andächtigen

Isabella Gräfin Sedóchanovka,

Seuf. Dame Oberk. und k. Seelst. da durchlauchtigste Frau Prinzessin Maria Anna von Parma,

zu vernehmen: dass **WIR UNS** bewogen finden, derselben den zur Fortpflanzung der immerwährenden Verehrung des heiligen Kreuzes gestifteten hochadeligen Sternkreuz-Orden in Gnaden zu verleihen. **WIR** befehlen zugleich, das ihr gegebene Ordenszeichen an der linken Seite der Brust zu tragen, und versehen **UNS**, dass sie nie unterlassen werde, sich durch wahre Andacht und Frömmigkeit dieses Ordens würdig zu bezeugen und den bestehenden Ordensregeln nachzuleben. Auch wollen **WIR**, dass im Falle ihres Ablebens das Ordenszeichen von ihren Erben oder Anverwandten **UNSEREM** Ordens-Secretär längstens binnen Monatsfrist zurückgesandt werde, damit die üblichen Andachten verrichtet werden können. Uebrigens bleiben **WIR** derselben in Gnaden gewogen.

Gegeben zu Wien, am 1. December 1808.



Maria Theresia

Auf Ihrer kaiserlichen und königlichen Hoheit
gnädigst ertheilten Befehl.

Der Secretär des hochadeligen Sternkreuz-Ordens

Victor Jernung

*Gräfin Pauline von Kinsky
geborene Gräfin Bellegarde*

Award Document
1905





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Elisabeth Order

(Kaiserlich österreichischer Elisabeth-Orden)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Date Issued: This order was created on September 17, 1898 in honor of St. Elizabeth of Thuringia and to commemorate the life and tragic death of the Empress Elizabeth of Austria. The order continued to be issued until the fall of the empire in 1918.

Reason Issued: This order was issued as a general merit order for women who had rendered special meritorious service to the empire in the social, religious or artistic realm. The order was intended to reward women of all social classes, religions and marital status for services in the religious and charitable field.

Classes or Types: This order was issued in four classes and also had a merit cross and an affiliated merit medal

- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, grand cross
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, first class with star (added to the order classes in 1918)
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, first class
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, second class
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Cross (An ancillary award attached to the order in April 30, 1918)
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Medal (An ancillary award attached to order)

Classes of the order issued from September 17, 1898 until 1918 were

- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, grand cross
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, first class
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, second class
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Medal

Classes of the order issued after April 30, 1918 were:

- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, grand cross
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, first class with star (added to the order classes on April 30, 1918)
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, first class
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, second class
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Cross (added to the order on April 30, 1918)
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Medal





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Elisabeth Order

(Kaiserlich österreichischer Elisabeth-Orden)



Interesting Facts:

- The Austrian Imperial Order of Elisabeth was the first and only Austrian Ladies Merit Order
- The order also commemorated the death of Empress Elisabeth on September 10, 1898 in Switzerland
- Bestowal of this award were made personally by the emperor until December 29, 1916
- St. Elizabeth of Thuringia was the daughter of the Hungarian King Andreas II. She was born in 1207.
- The order could be awarded with diamonds
- The award was to be worn at all times when the recipient was in public.
- Miniatures of the award were not to be worn. Although miniatures do exist.
- All awards except those decorated with diamonds and the merit cross and medal were required to be returned upon the death of the recipient. Those with diamonds could be kept with the Emperor's permission.
- The award documents also were returned upon the death of the recipient.
- The red and white color of the cross arms represents the Austrian national colors.
- The first Grand Cross was issued to Empress Elisabeth's Lady in waiting Irma Gräfin Sztaray
- Most gold insignia were melted down from 1919 through 1937 by the mint in Vienna. Also in 1941 the company Rothe handed over 24 insignia of the 1st class and 13 of the 2nd class to be melted down. The remainders of the decorations present in the order chancellery were stolen by the Russians during the invasion of 1945. Thus finding a genuine gold badge of this order is highly problematic
- There were only eight Austro-Hungarian awards authorized by statute to be issued in a jeweled version: The Order of the Golden Fleece, The Military Order of Maria Theresia, The Order of St. Stephan, the Order of Leopold, The Austrian Imperial Order of the Iron Crown, (although the statutes of this order authorize the wearing of jeweled insignia with the permission of the emperor there are no known authorized examples of this insignia), the Military Merit Cross the Elisabeth Order and the Civil Merit Cross. In each case they were issued to indicate the special regard of the emperor.

Hallmarks:

- Bronze gilt asterisk
- 1872-1922 800 fine silver mark
- 1866-1890 Vienna Assay Office mark
- 1890-1921 Vienna Assay Office mark
 - C.F Rothe of Vienna
 - Chancellery Asterisk Hallmark





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Elisabeth Order

(Kaiserlich österreichischer Elisabeth-Orden)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Interesting Facts (continued):

- The officers of the order were Grand Master, Chancellor, Treasurer and Chancellery Clerk
- The Elisabeth Medal and diamond insignia could be worn at the same time as any of the Elisabeth order insignia

Obverse:

- Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order Grand Cross, First Class with Star and First Class: A gold rimmed white and red enameled cross. The white and red portion of the cross arms are shaped like stylized lily petals. The two outer portions of the cross arms are enameled red and curved. The inner portion is enameled white and slightly raised. Between the arms of the cross are green enameled rose vines with two pinkish red roses. The center medallion has a raised gold rim with a beaded design inside the edge. In the middle of this medallion is a white enameled field on which is the raised profile of St. Elizabeth in gold facing to the viewers right. On her head she wears a crown above, which is a square of gold with a white cross. Around the bust is a double halo of gold. At the top of the cross is a flat suspension ring. It is attached to a golden metal bow at the top of which is a large suspension ring to attach the badge to the ribbon.
- Second Class: A silver rimmed white and red enameled cross. The white and red portion of the cross arms are shaped like stylized lily blossoms. The two outer portions of the cross arms are enameled red and curved. The inner portion is enameled white and slightly raised. Between the arms of the cross are silver rose leaves and roses. The center medallion has a raised silver rim with a beaded design inside the edge. In the middle of this medallion is a white enameled field on which is the raised gold profile of St. Elizabeth, facing to the viewers right. On her head she wears a crown above, which is a square of gold with a white cross. Around the bust is a double halo of gold. At the top is a flat suspension ring to attach the badge to the ribbon.





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Elisabeth Order

(Kaiserlich österreichischer Elisabeth-Orden)



Obverse:

- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Cross: A silver cross with cross arms shaped like stylized lily blossoms. Between the arms of the cross are silver leaves and roses. The center medallion has a raised rim with a beaded design inside the edge. In the middle of this medallion is a silver field on which is the profile of St. Elizabeth facing to the viewers right. On her head she wears a crown above, which is a square with a cross. Around the bust is a double halo. At the top of the cross is a flat suspension ring for suspending the cross from a ring which attaches it to the ribbon
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Medal: Inside a raised rim is the obverse of the Order of Elizabeth Badge. The cross arms are shaped like stylized lily blossoms. Between the arms of the cross are silver rose bush leaves and roses. The center medallion has a raised rim with a beaded design inside the edge. In the middle of this medallion is a silver field on which is the profile of St. Elizabeth facing to the viewers right. On her head she wears a crown above, which is a square with a cross. Around the bust is a double halo. At the top of the medal is a ball shaped eye resting on stylized leaves through which passes a suspension ring to attach it to the ribbon.





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Elisabeth Order

(Kaiserlich österreichischer Elisabeth-Orden)



Obverse:

Image courtesy of Dorotheum

- Order of Elizabeth, grand cross star: The Grand Cross star is a post 1871 diamond cut silver star on which is the obverse of the grand cross.
- Order of Elizabeth, first class with star, star: The First Class star is a post 1871 diamond cut silver star on which is the obverse of the first class badge mounted in its center





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Elisabeth Order

(Kaiserlich österreichischer Elisabeth-Orden)

Image attributed to Reference Catalogue Orders, medals and decorations of the World, A-D, Borna Barac



Reverse:

- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Order Grand Cross, First Class with star and First Class: The white and red portion of the cross arms are shaped like stylized lily blossoms. The two outer portions of the cross arms are enameled red and curved. The inner portion is enameled white and slightly raised. The reverse of the rose vines are green enameled with two pinkish red roses. The reverse of the center medallion has a gold raised rim and beaded pattern just as on the front. Inside the rim is a stylized raised gold E for Elizabeth on a white field decorated with gold rose vines and three golden rose buds. The badge is suspended from a metal ring attached to a gold bow.
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Order Second Class: The white and red portion of the cross arms are shaped like stylized lily blossoms. The two outer portions of the cross arms are enameled red and curved. The inner portion is enameled white and slightly raised. The reverse of the rose vines between the arms is plain silver metal and not enameled. They are also somewhat less well defined than on the obverse. The reverse of the center medallion has a raised silver rim and beaded pattern just as on the front. Inside the rim is a stylized gold E for Elizabeth on a white field decorated with gold rose vines and three golden rose buds. The badge is suspended from a metal ring which is used to attach it to the ribbon.
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Order Merit Cross: The reverse of the badge is plain silver metal and not enameled. The reverse of the center medallion has a raised silver rim and beaded pattern just as on the front. Inside the rim is a stylized silver E for Elizabeth on a silver field decorated with silver rose vines and three silver rose buds. The badge is suspended from a metal ring which is used to attach it to the ribbon.



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Elisabeth Order

(Kaiserlich österreichischer Elisabeth-Orden)



Reverse:

- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Medal: Inside a raised rim is a rose vine with three rose buds. In the middle of the vine is the elaborate monogram E for Elizabeth in Latin cursive script.
- Order of Elizabeth, grand cross star: The Grand Cross star is a post 1871 diamond cut silver star with a vertical pin.
- Order of Elizabeth, grand cross star with jewels: The Grand Cross star is a post 1871 diamond star with facets to attach the gem stones and with a vertical pin.
- Order of Elizabeth, first class with star: The First Class star is a post 1871 diamond cut silver star with a vertical pin and rivets for attaching the badge to the front of the star body.





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Elisabeth Order

(Kaiserlich österreichischer Elisabeth-Orden)



Weight: The weight of order can vary considerably depending on the materials of which it is made. Typical examples are sighted below

- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, grand cross badge in diamonds: Unknown
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, grand cross badge: 30,2 grams
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, grand cross star in diamonds: Unknown
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, grand cross star: 44.9 grams
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, first class with star badge: 30 grams
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, first class with star, star: 44.9 grams
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, first class badge: 29.5-30.2 grams
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, second class badge: 28.6 grams
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Cross: Unknown
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Medal: 24-26.2 grams

Size:

- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, grand cross badge in diamonds: Unknown
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, grand cross badge: 66-68 by 48-49 mm
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, grand cross star in diamonds: Unknown
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, grand cross star: 70 mm in diameter
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, first class with star badge: 66-68 by 48-49 mm
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, first class with star, star: 80 mm in diameter
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, first class badge: 68 by 48-49 mm
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, second class badge: 52.4-68 mm by 48.5 mm
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Cross: Unknown
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Medal: 31-33 mm in diameter





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Elisabeth Order

(Kaiserlich österreichischer Elisabeth-Orden)



Type of Material: All of the grand cross and First Class badges were made of gold until 1915

- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, grand cross badge:
 - Gold and enamel
 - Silver gilt and enamel (After October 1915)
 - Bronze gilt and enamel (After November 13, 1917)
 - Gold jewels and enamel
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, grand cross star:
 - Gold, silver and enamel
 - Silver, silver gilt and enamel (After October 1915)
 - Silver, bronze gilt and enamel (After November 13, 1917)
 - Gold, silver jewels and enamel
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, first class with star badge:
 - Gold and enamel
 - Silver gilt and enamel (After October 1915)
 - Bronze gilt and enamel (After November 13, 1917)
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, first class with star, star
 - Gold, silver and enamel
 - Silver gilt, silver and enamel (After October 1915)
 - Silver, bronze gilt and enamel (After November 13, 1917)
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, first class badge:
 - Gold and enamel
 - Silver gilt and enamel (After October 1915)
 - Bronze gilt and enamel (After November 13, 1917)
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, second class badge:
 - Silver and enamel
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Cross:
 - Silver
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Medal:
 - Silver





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Elisabeth Order

(Kaiserlich österreichischer Elisabeth-Orden)



Variations:

- Grand Cross Star Type I: as previously described in metal
- Grand Cross Star Type II: as previously described in bullion
- Grand Cross Star Type III: as previously described in gem stones
- First Class with Star, Star Type I: as previously described in metal
- First Class with Star, Star Type II: as previously described in bullion
- Grand Cross badge Type I: as described above
- Grand Cross badge Type II: as described above except in gem stones

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: C.F. Rothe and Neffe of Vienna (including awards in diamonds)

Note: There are examples with the mark of Vinc Mayer Sohne which are believed to be post war copies made for the collector trade

Number Issued: 1,125 awards of this order or its affiliated decoration and medal were made. 916 of the awards were orders of which 773 were awarded to ladies of the empire and 143 to foreigners. There was only one award made of the merit cross and 208 awards of the merit medal of which 45 were to foreigners.

- Awards in diamonds: 2, one to the German Empress and Queen of Prussia, Auguste Viktoria in 1899 and the other to Alexandra, Queen of Great Britain in 1904
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, grand cross: 81 awarded of which 45 were to foreigners
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, first class with star: 3 awards of which 2 were to foreigner
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, first class: 332 awards of which 58 were to foreigners
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, second class: 500 awards of which 38 were to foreigners
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Cross: 1 award to a member of the empire
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Medal: 208 awards of which 45 were to foreigners

Order of Precedence:

Order of precedence: The Elisabeth Order was not included in the Order of Precedence. The Elisabeth Medal of Merit is Number 46 after the Bronze Bravery Medal, and before the Silver Merit Cross with Crown





Orders of Knighthood

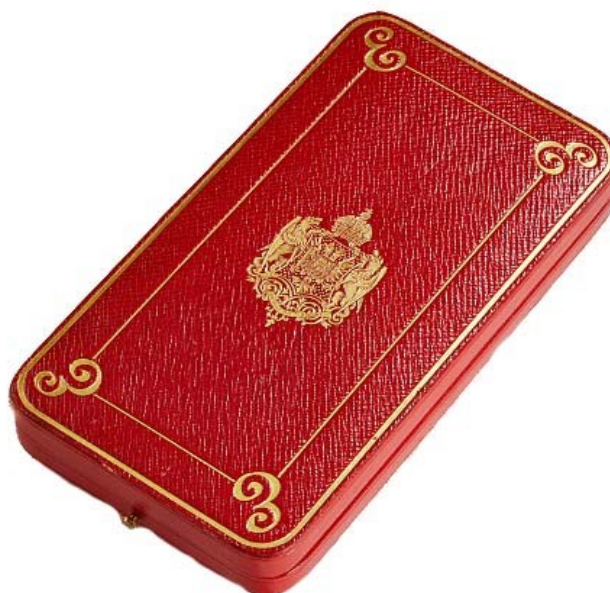
Imperial Austrian Elisabeth Order

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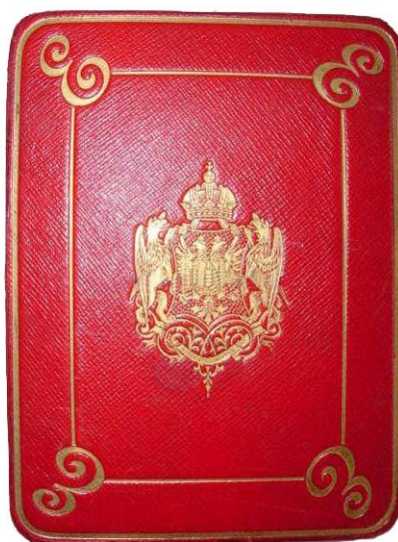
Case:

The case for the orders is covered in red leather while those for the medals are covered in red cloth. On the outer lid of the case is a silver or gold (decorations and medals silver, orders gold) border with a second line of the same color 8 mm from the outer edge of the case. Each corner of the case is decorated with the monogram E. In the center of the case is the Habsburg coat of arms in the same color as the other decorative elements of the case. The inner lid is white silk and has the gold monogram of Rothe and Neffe. The inside of the lower lid is white plush when fitted for the orders and black plush when fitted for the decoration and medal. The bottom of the case is red leather for the orders and black paper for the medals.

Grand Cross Case



First Class Case





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Imperial Austrian Elisabeth Order
(Kaiserlich österreichischer Elisabeth-Orden)

Case:



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Orders of Knighthood

Imperial Austrian Elisabeth Order

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Ribbon: The ribbons were made by the firm of Eduard Meinhardt Erben

- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Order Grand Cordon is a white ribbon 66 mm wide with a 10-11 mm wide cherry-red stripe, 10 mm from the edge of the ribbon.
- The Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Merit Order: First Class, First Class with Star, Second Class and Merit Cross ribbon is 28 mm wide in the same pattern as the Grand Cordon ribbon worn in the form of a bow. The cherry-red edge stripes are 2.5-3 mm wide and are 2-2.5 mm from the edge of the ribbon. The ribbons that are 26-28 mm in width are older than the 30 mm ribbons. That for the Merit Medal is 20 mm wide, white with two cherry-red, about 2 mm wide side stripes also 2mm from the edge. (In the form of a bow).





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Miniature: Miniatures of the First Class, Second Class and Merit Medal are known to exist even though wearing of miniatures of the award in public was prohibited.



Elisabeth Order, grand cross



Elisabeth Order, first class



Elisabeth order, merit medal

Certificates: The award recipients received their awards and a diploma in German or Hungarian as appropriate, signed personally by the emperor.





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Alexandra Queen of Great Britain and Ireland



August Victoria, Empress of Germany and Queen of Prussia

Recipients of the Order:

Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, Grand Cross in Diamonds

- August Victoria, Empress of Germany and Queen of Prussia (1899)
- Alexandra Queen of Great Britain and Ireland (1904)

Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, First class with star

This class of the order was awarded only three times to the following persons:

- Elisabeth Kallay von Nagy Kallo, Lady in Waiting to Empress and Queen Zita August 16, 1918
- Maria Anna Countess von Rex, Mistress of the Household of the Royal Saxon Court, August 16, 1918
- Marianne Baroness von Finck, Mistress of the Household of the Princess Maria of Saxony, August 16, 1918

Austrian Imperial Elisabeth Order, Merit Cross

This class of the order was awarded only once to:

- Franziska Glaser, Mother Superior of the Brothers of Mercy Convent





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Empress Elisabeth
Who is commemorated by
the order

